

Labour votes by majority of 6m to abolish the Lords

Labour Party conference at Brighton snapped itself into a passion yesterday over the old question of the Upper House. Despite initial defences offered by two Labour peers, Parliamentary Correspondent writes, those who favoured abolition felt no qualms in damning their lordships to oblivion by a matter of 6m votes to 91,000.

Lord Shinwell says priorities are wrong

an Hugh Moyaes Parliamentary Correspondent writes: After three days of sober and unemotionally temperate debate, the Labour Party conference at Brighton snapped itself into a passion yesterday over the old question of the Upper House. Despite initial defences offered by two Labour peers, Parliamentary Correspondent writes, those who favoured abolition felt no qualms in damning their lordships to oblivion by a matter of 6m votes to 91,000.

Lord will negotiate with unions, not state

an Paul Routledge writes: The Government remained unshaken yesterday about what would be the 10 per cent increase in the minimum wage. The Government's position was clear: it would not negotiate with the unions, but it would negotiate with the state.

Bank may cut lending rate

A further cut in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate, probably by half a point to 5 per cent, seems likely tomorrow despite signals that the Bank wants moderation in the downward trend. Meanwhile, Barclays yesterday cut its rate of interest on outstanding balances from 2 to 1 1/2 per cent a month, bringing it into line with Access, the rival credit card operation. Sterling had another good day, closing at \$1.7573, the highest for 13 months.

Baby battering warning

An average of two babies will be battered to death by their parents every week in England, according to the latest estimates of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Mr Prior courts unions

Mr Prior, opposition spokesman on employment, has decided to make his future on a policy of accommodation with the unions. He expects a clear majority at the party conference for the official line on the closed shop and says he will resign if the Shadow Cabinet switches to a harsher view of labour relations.

Anti-crime campaign

An £80,000 crime prevention campaign was launched by Mr David McNee, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. The signs indicated, he said, that this year would be "jackpot year" for the criminal. The purpose of the campaign was to highlight the measures everyone could take to defeat the criminal.



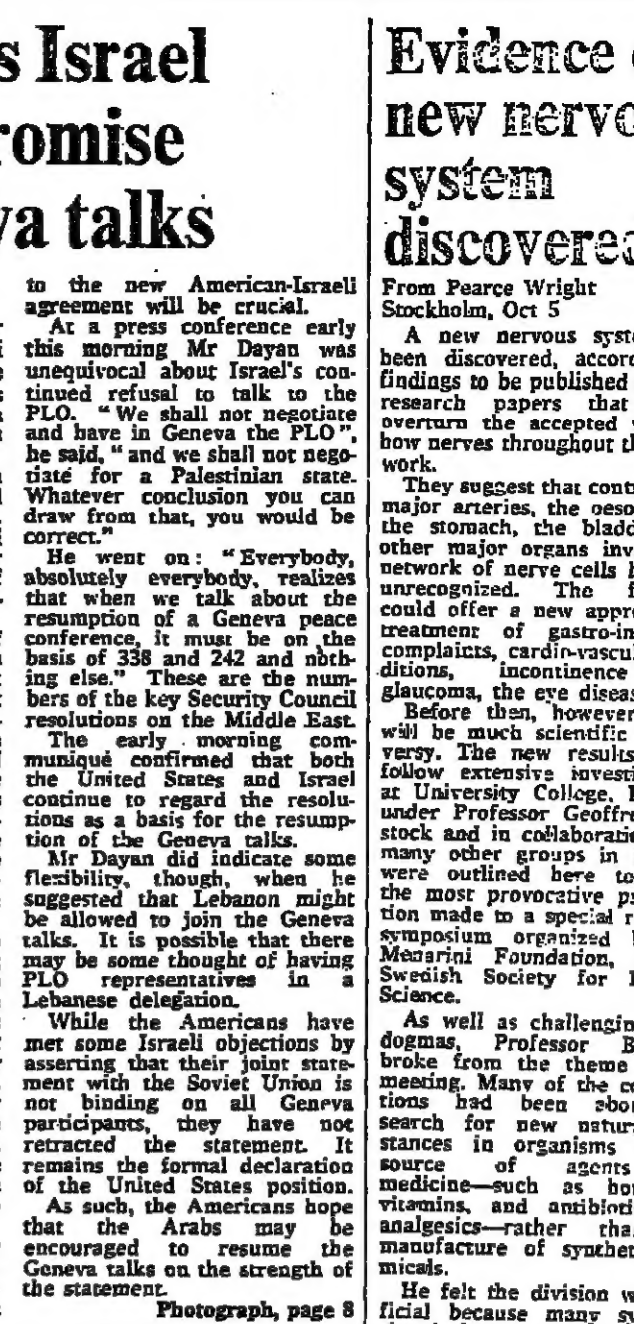
Lord Shinwell: It would be better to get a reasonable balance into the House of Lords than cut the peers' throats, but you can "go very close to it".



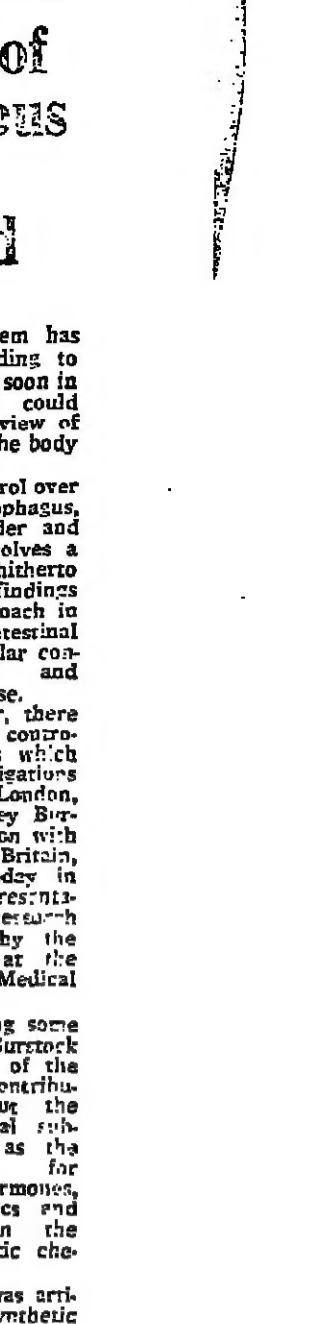
Dr Coggan visits the Duchess



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US soothes Israel with compromise over Geneva talks

From Michael Leapman, New York, Oct 5. President Carter and Mr Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, resolved some of the newly-emerged differences between the two countries in a marathon negotiating session here last night.

Evidence of new nervous system discovered

From Pearce Wright, Stockholm, Oct 5. A new nervous system has been discovered, according to findings to be published soon in research papers that could overturn the accepted view of how nerves throughout the body work.

Dr Coggan visits the Duchess

The Archbishop of Canterbury last night visited the Duchess of Kent at King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, London, where she is being treated for complications in her four-month pregnancy.

Firemen's strike shuts Gatwick

Gatwick airport is closed to all passenger traffic until 2 pm today, the British Airports Authority (BAA) said last night.

Suicide verdict on Sir Eric Miller

Sir Eric Miller killed himself with a single shot through the brain, Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster deputy coroner, said yesterday.

Protesters arrested in Belgrade

Two human rights activists have been arrested in the Belgrade conference reviewing the Helsinki agreement, which contains provisions on human rights. However, another group of activists, who have been more discreet, are still campaigning. The Swedish delegate told the conference his government would draw attention to all violation of human rights.

Sugar talks accord

A last-minute compromise on sugar quotas has ended the search in Geneva for a new agreement to ensure equitable prices and supplies in the world market. The 72-nation accord, which will last for five years, specifies a price range of 11 to 21 cents a lb. Present market price is 7 cents a lb.

Duke on Gibraltar

The Duke of Edinburgh told King Juan Carlos of Spain that Britain was fed up with Gibraltar, according to extracts just published from the memoirs of Señor José María de Arieza, the former Spanish Foreign Minister. He said King Juan Carlos told him of the conversation.

Sir de Villiers retires

Sir de Villiers Grassi, leader of the Opposition in South Africa for more than 20 years, is retiring from politics before next month's general election. The United Party, which he led from 1955, was dissolved recently. Sir de Villiers is regarded as a statesman like his father, the late Sir de Villiers.

Cricketers' dispute

Alan Knott and Derek Underwood, the England Test cricketers, gave details in the High Court of how they became engaged to play in the Pakistan series.

BBC 'bleeding to death'

The BBC is bleeding to death because of its poor rates of pay, according to a group of 13 broadcasting unions and associated bodies. The group says the corporation is subsidised by its 26,000 staff, whose pay is at least 30 per cent below that of comparable workers.

Books, page 20

Dr Roy Strong on Leslie Horson's book Shakespeare by Hilliard; Humphrey Berkeley reviews The Tenth Muse by Nigel Fisher; Jackie Gillett on a new novel by John Fowles; H. R. F. Keating on the latest crime fiction; Arts, page 19; John Percival on the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in Tehran; Roberto Matta talks to Robert Berthoud; Michael Radcliffe on Play of the Week (BBC 2); Ned Chaffler on The Dragon Variation (Duke of York's Theatre); Obituary, page 18; His Hon Judge Polson.

Business News, page 21-27

Financial Editor: C. de Coor. From the Finance Houses; P & O taking the longer view; American stock markets; Equities and gilt rallied from early losses and the FT Index closed 4.0 higher at 515.6. Business features: Peter Norman on stock signs at the VFW; Fokker aerospace group; Economic notebook: Caroline Atkinson looks at exchange rates; Business Diary: Arch-critic of the oil industry; to advise the Department of Energy on how to handle oil companies.

Talks fail to end funeral strike

Talks with the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service failed to end the strike by the National Union of Funeral Service Operatives in London last night. Today, Mr James Mortimer, chairman of the service, will meet union leaders and employers.

Trouble-free win for United

More than a hundred extra police from Cornwall and Devon were sent to Plymouth last night for the replay of the game between Manchester United and St Etienne which brought violence to the home ground of the French team. But at last night's match, won 2-0 by United, not one arrest was made.

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Every Monday at 18.15 SAA's non-stop flight leaves for Jo'burg (fastest to Jo'burg). Just like our other daily flights which get you to South Africa fast. Including our Non-Stop Cape Town service every Saturday at 20.15 (fastest to Cape Town). Remember we fly fast to South Africa 8 times a week, and all flights connect with SAA's exclusive route network to 11 destinations in the Republic.

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ADVERTISEMENT

October 6th.

A day to think about human rights.

And Anatoly Sharansky.

Today, in Belgrade, 35 nations are meeting to review progress in the defence of human rights as laid down at Helsinki in 1975.

Today a man, Anatoly Sharansky, will have been held for 6 months 22 days incommunicado in the K.G.B. investigating prison, Lefortovo.

His parents have been told that he is to be charged with treason for which the maximum sentence is death.

To date no official charge has been made. No lawyer prepared to plead his innocence is allowed to represent him.

The International Appeal for his release, printed below, gives the essence of events leading to his arrest.

Similar appeals have also been launched in other European countries, Canada and the United States.

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL FOR THE RELEASE OF ANATOLY SHARANSKY.

“ We call upon Kurt Waldheim the Secretary General of the United Nations, Leonid Brezhnev, President of the Soviet Union and Dr. David Owen, Foreign Secretary of Great Britain, to note the arrest in Moscow on March 15th 1977 of ANATOLY SHARANSKY a leader of the Soviet Jewish community.

Since 1973, Anatoly Sharansky has been denied the right to leave the USSR and join his wife in spite of guarantees by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recommendations of the European Agreement on Security and Cooperation.

In May 1976, Sharansky became a member of the

GROUP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT IN THE USSR. On March 15th 1977, he was arrested following libellous allegations in the official Soviet press that he and other Soviet Jewish leaders were employed by the CIA and therefore guilty of treason.

THIS CHARGE HAS BEEN REFUTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AFTER INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION.

We appeal to the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of the Soviet Union and Foreign Secretary of Great Britain, to take every possible action to ensure that Anatoly Sharansky be released.

”

Nearly 2,000 signatures of prominent citizens have already been received.

They have been sent to Kurt Waldheim, President Brezhnev and Dr. David Owen. Lack of space prohibits us publishing them all and we apologise to those whose names do not appear.

PEERS

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Lord Beaumont of Whitley

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The Viscountess Cobham

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Baroness Elliot of Harwood

The Marchioness of Camden

The Marchioness of Bath

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Baroness of Perth

Lord Reginald

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of

Seaford

Lord Segal of Wytham

The Earl of Sutherland

The Lord Winterbottom

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of

Seaford

Lord Segal of Wytham

The Earl of Sutherland

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Seaford

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The Earl of Sutherland

The Lord Winterbottom

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of

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The Earl of Sutherland

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HOME NEWS

Mr Prior stakes future on cooperation with the trade unions

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Mr Prior, opposition spokesman on employment, expects a clear majority for the official Tory line on the closed shop in the debate at next week's Conservative Party conference. He is staking his political future on a policy of accommodation with the trade unions.

The "differences of emphasis" between him and Sir Keith Joseph, spokesman with responsibility for policy and research, will be fully ventilated next Tuesday and the outcome is expected to be endorsement of a motion from Newham, North-West, constituency party calling for greater freedom for workers who do not want to join a union.

Mrs Thatcher, the party leader, has so far supported Mr Prior and his policy of rebuilding links with the unions after the rupture of 1974. If the Shadow Cabinet changes its line Mr Prior will resign. He argues that a policy of cooperation and respect for the unions' representative power is the only feasible way of achieving and restoring office.

The closed shop issue is only the public aspect of a fundamental division between those in the party who support the Prior view and those who see in Sir Keith's attitude, particularly over the Grunwick strike, a more accurate reflection of the traditional Tory view of organized labour.

Mr Prior will attack Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, for

joining the picket line at Grunwick, but he will make clear that a future Conservative government will seek to reach a voluntary agreement with the TUC on a code of practice governing freedom and the closed shop. Legislation compelling unions to permit conscientious objectors to opt out of membership is seen as a last resort.

Mr Prior has had private indications from union leaders that his proposed code of practice might be acceptable to the TUC if it was clearly not a return to the statutory right not to belong. That provision was written into the ill-fated 1971 Industrial Relations Act.

Supporters of the Joseph view of trade union power are already committed Tory voters, it is argued, and the party's policy on industrial relations ought to be aimed at the floating working class voter who is probably a trade unionist and wants to see the Conservative Party attracting the public cooperation of the TUC.

The Newham motion calls for the law to be changed so that more consideration is given to workers caught up in a new closed shop agreement.

Behind the scenes, an attempt is being made to draft a joint statement on employment, bearing the imprimatur of Sir Keith and Mr Prior, with the aim of reducing the policy conflict between the two men.

Conservative agent cleared over poll

Peter Bladen, aged 50, a full-time Conservative agent, who was accused of bribery and inducing people to vote Tory in the Ashfield by-election, has been cleared by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The police conducted an investigation after complaints about Mr Bladen, of Hawton, near Newark, Nottinghamshire. A police file was sent to the DPP who has ruled that no criminal offences were committed.

Falcon thieves fined £225 for stealing chicks

Two men who were said to have stolen three valuable falcon chicks from a farmer's nest, were each fined £225 by magistrates at Rhayader, Powys, yesterday.

Christopher Denny, aged 24, a panel beater of Little Queen's Road, Teddington, Middlesex, and Paul Howes, aged 26, a window cleaner, of Glenridge Park, Virginia Water, Surrey, pleaded guilty to three charges of disturbing, taking and being in possession of wild birds.

Gas log fires condemned for 'staggering' costs

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Gas "log fires" are so inefficient that they should be banned, under the Trade Descriptions Act, from being described as fires or heaters, the October issue of *Which?* magazine states.

The Consumers' Association, which publishes the magazine, says such fires are expensive, inefficient, in some cases illegally installed and are likely to be dangerous. Two heaters tested by the magazine gave less than a third of the heat for the same money as an average gas convector heater.

The appliances are sold in shops, by mail order and by door-to-door salesmen. Often they are supplied in kit form, although *Which?* points out that it is illegal to install gas appliances without the necessary knowledge and experience. Gas boards refuse to fit them. The report says that without adequate ventilation the appliances could give off poisonous carbon-monoxide fumes. Two appliances tested at random and turned fully on, sent flames shooting up the chimney, but

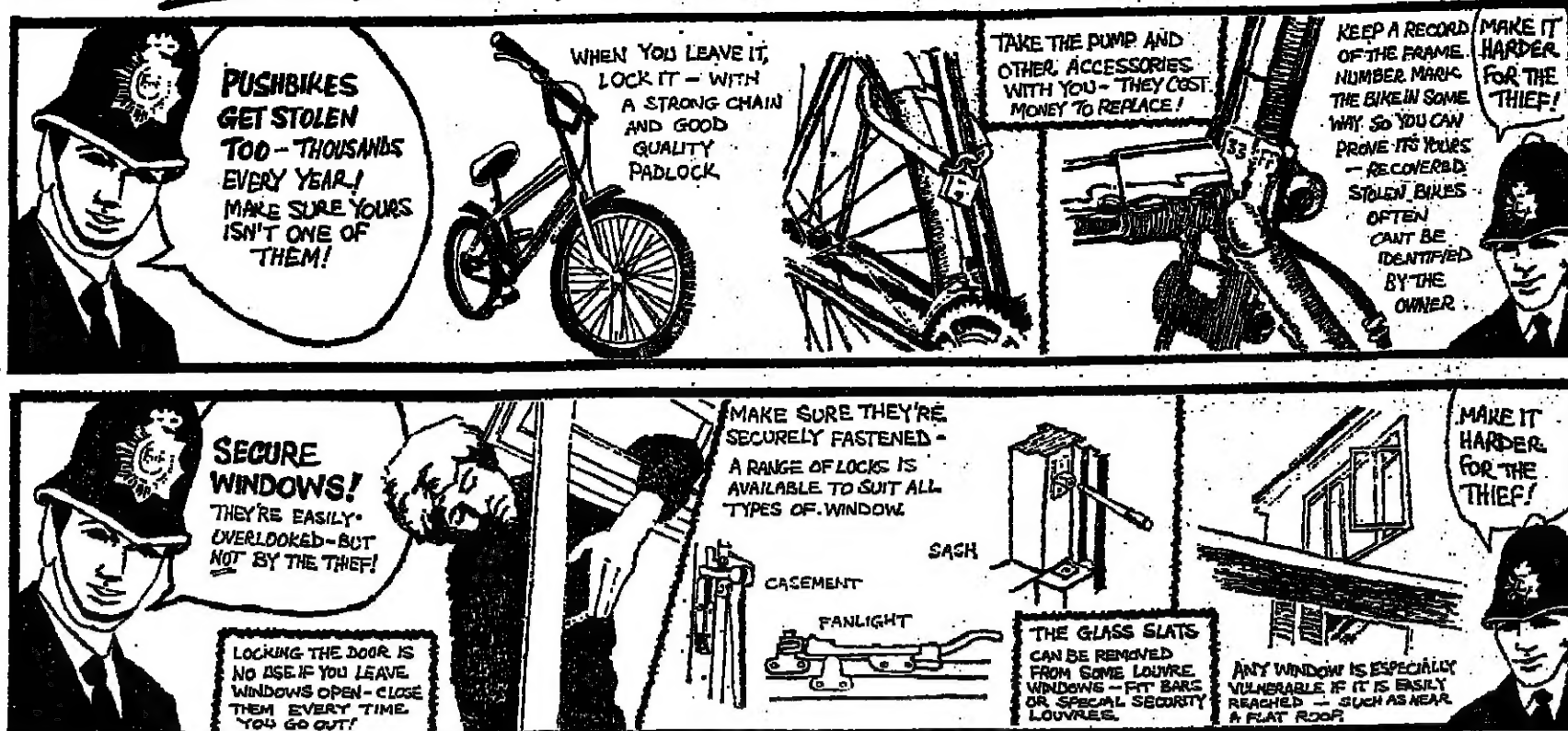
Running a car 'costs £8 to £25 a week'

Motorists are paying between £8 and £25 a week to keep their cars on the road, *Which?* reports after a survey of 20,000 members of the Consumers' Association. The details were published yesterday in the magazine's annual car-buying guide.

The survey showed that almost half those with cars registered in 1976 had trouble with the electrical systems. A third complained of defects such as rattling, squeaking and leaks in the bodywork. There were complaints of fuel and ignition faults in 28 per cent of cases.

The magazine calculates run-

HOW YOU CAN HELP PREVENT CRIME!



Crime-prevention guidance to bicycle owners and householders which will be distributed throughout London during the Scotland Yard campaign.

Commissioner calls on public for help to beat crime

By a Staff Reporter

Mr David McNeice, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police yesterday at Scotland Yard launched a £80,000 crime prevention campaign. He said:

"The crime rate is getting worse. All the signs indicate that this year will turn out to be 'jackpot year' for the criminal."

Everyone could take positive steps to defeat the criminal.

which is more than 4,000 under strength and faces the constant demands of public order, political demonstrations, industrial disputes, football matches, all of which can only be dealt with at a heavy cost to the everyday job of policing the streets of London.

Everyone could take positive steps to defeat the criminal.

The purpose of the campaign was to highlight the simple, but effective, measures everyone could take. Much crime was committed on the spur of the moment because the opportunity presented itself.

The commissioner continued:

"From Saxon times onwards, every citizen has been expected to play his part and help the police."

Figures published by Scot-

land Yard yesterday show that a burglary is committed in London every 10 minutes. Pickpocketing offences have increased fourfold in the past five years. Twenty-seven per cent of all those arrested for all types of crime were juveniles aged between 10 and 16 and nearly a third of all crime involved either theft from or of vehicles.

Figures published by Scot-

Strike by the police would be catastrophic, MP says

By Our Political Staff

The spectre of a police strike over pay was raised yesterday by Mr Eddison Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds and consultant to the Police Federation. The consequences for Britain would be catastrophic, he told a Conservative Women's one-day conference in Colchester.

Mr Griffiths said that if the Government made an exception in pay policy for Ford car workers, whose previous claims had helped to sink inflation, it must also make an exception for the police. The needs of the police were far more pressing and their ser-

vices to the nation more important. "It would be tragic if the police once again were brushed aside because they are legally prevented from exercising the trade union pressures available to the car workers," he said.

The Home Secretary had acknowledged the police as a special case and the public supported that. But under those circumstances, the police would be put on the same footing as the rest of the workforce. "This would be a catastrophe for the public," he said.

Secondly, there would be an inexorable and irresistible

movement towards paramilitary policing as men left the force and the shortage of police made it necessary to substitute riot gear weapons for the traditional civilian methods of upholding public order.

"I see grave dangers in this," Mr Griffiths told the conference. "The greatest strength of the British bobby is the fact that he is rooted in the community. But once the policeman puts on the Dalek-like apparatus of the riot squad he is in danger of being separated physically and psychologically from the community on which he depends."

Paramilitary police forces

also tend to become the instrument of the government. "Where the police have the right to strike, as in many western countries, the paramilitary security police may also be moved in to police the police strikers," he commented. "I can think of no better way of splitting the police service from top to bottom."

The mood of younger constables was one of despair and near revolt. Only the strong sense of duty of their leaders held them back from taking industrial action. The police must be given a generous pay settlement, he said.

Move to end home wash for vehicles

By a Staff Reporter

The British Car Wash Association, which was formed yesterday, to seek to stop car washing at home because of environmental side effects.

"Every time a car is washed in a drive or garden or on a road, all the effluent goes straight into our streams and rivers and is a major source of pollution," Mr Andrew Ralston, president of the association, said.

Mr Ralston owns 112 automatic car wash centres between Dover and Aberdeen. Other members include Blue Star Garages and Heron. "We do not dispute our vested interest," Mr Ralston said. "But if we can improve both the environment and the standard of automatic car washing through having the running of cars in streets and garages made illegal, it will be of general public benefit."

Mr Ralston maintained that the effluent water from automatic car washes was directed through elaborate filters

Inquiry told of explosion risk to footpath users

From Our Correspondent
Chesterfield

People using a Derbyshire countryside footpath network between Alfreton and South Normanton, run the risk of being blown up, a public inquiry in Mansfield was told yesterday.

The path runs through land owned by Explosives and Chemical Products, which has built an explosives factory. At the inquiry the company asked Bolsover District Council to close the footpath to the public. Their application was challenged by members of the path society, the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society.

Mr John McKee, a director of the company, which started business at the site more than 25 years ago, said: "We cannot afford to allow people to use the path, not only for their safety but ours, as well. A discarded cigarette and a discarded cigarette butt are enough to cause an explosion."

The dispute over the path began in 1974 when the company, which believed the path was disused, found someone walking along it. A few weeks later Mr Donald Lee of the footpaths society was stopped by security men at the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society.

The findings are to be announced.

Prostitutes entertained in prison cells, letter says

An official investigation is

being made into an allegation that prostitutes had intercourse in prison cells with some of Britain's most dangerous criminals.

The allegation was made to Mr Edward Taylor, chief Conservative spokesman on Scottish affairs, in an anonymous letter from Berlin prison, Glasgow. A copy was also smuggled out and delivered by post at the Glasgow office of the Press Association.

Mr Taylor said yesterday: "The letter which I received contained allegations which were really so shocking and alarming that I took the only action I could, to send it to

the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr Bruce Millan). "I also sent him a signed letter from a prisoner at Peterhead, who told me he had been a prisoner in the special unit at Berlin and he was making similar allegations."

Among the allegations about the special unit are that former prisoners and prostitutes made visits lasting three or four hours at a time; prisoners were allowed to meet visitors, with their families, in their cells and were able to have intercourse with wives, girlfriends, or prostitutes; murderers and other prisoners were allowed to visit their homes and go

shopping to Glasgow; and former prisoners visiting the unit took prostitutes with them for the prisoners' use. They also took drugs, and tobacco and cigarettes.

The 900-word letter contains names of former prisoners who are alleged to have visited the special unit. It describes one visit, during which a man released from a life sentence celebrated by calling on the unit leader with gin and white, sitting in one of the cells handing out cigars.

The letter alleges that one of the inmates of the special unit had intercourse with his wife in his cell, and that those visits

were arranged by a social worker. The Scottish Prisons Department said yesterday: "Inquiries into the running of the unit are under way. These inquiries were initiated by the Secretary of State on August 5."

Reference to a book by the prisoner, James Boyle. Obviously this letter has been taken into account, and the allegations are being investigated."

Mr Taylor described the allegations as astonishing and scandalous. "If they are true, there is obviously a need for an urgent and complete review of conditions at the special unit."

Grunwick writes against two ministers

By Robert Parker

The Grunwick film processing company has issued writs alleging defamation against Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, and Mr Howell, Minister for Sport and Water Resources, yesterday over remarks they are alleged to have made about the company while on the picket line outside the factory on May 19 last.

The company has also issued libel writs against the *Evening Standard*, London, and Mr Simon Jenkins its editor, for reporting what was said by Mrs Williams and Mr Howell about conditions in the factory.

The company has also issued a writ for libel against the *Daily Mirror* about an article which appeared on November 19 about the company and conditions of its employees.

Glasgow poverty shocks Duke's study group

A group of 15 people from

the Duke of Edinburgh's study conference said in a report published yesterday that their experiences during a visit to the east end of Glasgow had left them shocked, saddened and disgusted.

The group, who told the Duke of Edinburgh a fortnight ago that they were horrified by what they had seen, added: "We were shocked by the vastness of the problem, we were saddened by the effect it has on the children, and we were disgusted by the fact that citizens of the United Kingdom are forced to live under such appalling circumstances."

"During our visit we saw the physical destruction of a community, a community which has been reduced from 150,000 in 1961 to around 50,000 today."

Left behind in the east end of the city were the old, the infirm, the unemployed, the problem people, alcoholics, the vandals, and a large expanse of derelict land, in places like a 'lunar landscape'.

Attack on WPC ignored by passers-by

Det Inspector John Farley,

of Chadwell Heath, Essex, yesterday criticized people who walked past an off-duty police woman who was being savagely kicked and slashed in the face and body. Passers-by, including motorists travelling home from London, did not interfere.

Hazel Knight, a Constable in hospital suffering from shock after the attack in Chadwell Heath Lane on Tuesday night, her face is scabbed with cuts from a sharp instrument. Miss Knight, stationed at Ilford, who is leaving the force on Sunday, was hit on the head and kicked as she curled up on the ground to protect her face from her four attackers.

Mr Farley said: "Her assailants, two of whom were women, knew she was a police woman. They called her name."

"Pedestrians and motorists turned a blind eye. No one even took the registration number of the attacker's car. In these days I am not surprised. People do not want to know and that makes the police job more difficult."

£50,000 inner-city study contract angers opposition

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The first meeting of the council after the summer recess saw the Conservative administration face tough criticism from the Labour opposition over the appointment of a firm of consultants to undertake a year-long project in the inner-city areas at a cost of £50,000.

The opposition called for the resignation of Miss Shelagh Roberts, leader of the planning and communications policy committee, who was responsible for appointing Benson Wilcox Associates Ltd. Their brief is to act as a catalyst in stimulating private investment to create jobs and an improved environment.

After a heated debate, the Conservatives, with their built-in majority, repulsed the attack by 25 votes to 10.

Mr Andrew McIntosh (Lab, Tottenham), for the opposition, accused the Conservatives of gimmickry: "It is typical of the bluster and evasion of responsibility which has characterized this administration."

The proposal, if serious, was an insult to London, a trivialization of a vital matter by spending £50,000 to tackle years of neglect in the inner city areas, he said.

£55m plan to end Tube travel frauds questioned

By Our Transport Correspondent

London Transport's plan to spend £55m to save £6.5m a year is questioned in a report to the Greater London Council's transport committee.

The proposal is to install automatic barriers throughout the Underground during the next six years and thus eliminate fraudulent travel, at present estimated to cost £6m a year. There would also be manpower savings of about £500,000 a year.

Mr Harold Mote, chairman of the transport committee, said on Tuesday it was "an important step in the right direction", but it would make sense only if it gave value for money and a better service to passengers.

New homes left empty 'may cost £2,600 daily'

By Our Local Government Correspondent

The district auditor has been asked to investigate what the Labour opposition on the Greater London Council regards as unacceptable waste of public money by the GLC in leaving council homes empty pending their sale.

The request was made by Mrs Gladys Dimson, opposition spokeswoman on housing. The Conservative administration acknowledges that keeping homes empty means loss of rent and rates, but has given no estimate of the cost. Labour says that the loss of rent for 316 dwellings on specific developments amounts to £14,000 a month and believes that, taking other costs into con-

Tory drive to keep Scotland in Union

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

A leaflet to be circulated says every Scot receives far more in aid from the Government than he pays in his English counterpart.

The leaflet lists the wide range of courtes already held in Scotland through the Scottish Office with the great advantage that Scotland can plug in to the larger United Kingdom resources when necessary.

Mr Pym, chief opposition spokesman on devolution, who ended a visit to Scotland yesterday, the Scottish Conservative Party launched a campaign underlining the benefits of the Union.

Player says Packer contract is a bond

By John Hennessey
Sports Editor

Two England Test cricketers, Alan Knott and Derek Underwood, gave details in the High Court yesterday of the manner in which they had become engaged to play in the forthcoming Packer series in Australia.

At the suggestion of Tony Greig, who captained England on the previous winter's tour, they had gone to the Churchill Hotel, London, on Easter Monday, to discuss plans put forward on behalf of Mr Kerry Packer; they had then gone to the Dutchess Hotel to meet Mr Packer's agent, one of those who had signed agreements for the same day.

Mr Knott said, however, that in his case the contract was a "bond", as the agreement had not been finalized. His account was that he had then gone to the Dutchess Hotel to meet Mr Packer's agent, one of those who had signed agreements for the same day.

Mr Knott was giving evidence on behalf of the plaintiffs, Mr Packer and three of his players in the actions brought against the International Cricket Conference (ICC) and the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). They are seeking to remove a ban on the players from taking part in Test and county cricket.

Mr Knott was asked by Mr Patrick Milmo, for the defendants, if the new agreement had been signed. He said that it had not. His account was that he was working on another idea with another company. He still felt morally bound to play in the Packer series. He agreed, however, that he was not legally bound.

Mr Andrew Morritt, for the plaintiffs, questioned Mr Knott about the circumstances where he had repaid £28 he had received in unemployment benefit in the winter of 1976-77.

A reporter and a photographer from the Sunday Mirror had called at his home. "I suppose I was a bit young and naive at the time," he said, "I invited them in. They again had decided to pay the money back. Later, under cross-examination by Mr Milmo, Mr Knott agreed that he had received an advance payment of about £500 for a book he was writing about the tour.

Mr Underwood estimated his income in 1976 at £7,500. His contract with Kerry this year was for £3,155. He received a nominal sum, £5 a Test, for playing in the Packer series. He had been in 1975 for which he had been offered but the tour involved "selected" cricketers to a certain extent. He considered a vote taken by the members of the Cricketers' Association in favour of the ban as unfair and biased. Most of them would benefit from the ban and it had not, therefore, given a true picture.

Mr Underwood was about to be cross-examined when the hearing was adjourned until today.

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any way were London's ratepayers going to get value for money.

Miss Roberts (C Upminster), said that the Government's White Paper on the inner cities had exhorted the use of all agencies in tackling difficulties. She accused Mr McIntosh of going into a rage because the Conservatives had come up with a new idea.

Answering the charge that the Conservatives were not taking firm action on devolution, Miss Roberts said that tenders had been invited for the first roadwork. "I can see no reason why our road and rail link proposals should not be under way, and some completed, by the time Mr Howe's Cutler, leader of the council (C Harrow West), said that inner London boroughs were adopting a more realistic attitude and wanted

to attract private investment. They realize that they could not do it all themselves and would be happy for a Conservative GLC to pay to get matters moving. "This project has one aim, to provide much-needed employment and to help regenerate the decay in the inner boroughs."

He said the Labour Party had hoped to launch a similar scheme when it was in power. The idea was for a group of officers to go into the inner boroughs and take the initiative to arrest decay. "But it was considered by other authorities that the Labour Party were merely introducing just another bureaucratic element into the boroughs. The task force were told to get lost. We are setting up in a few months something they failed to set up in four years."

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consideration, the council could be spending £2,600 a day to keep new homes empty.

The Conservative policy of selling council houses came under further fire on Tuesday from the borough of Islington, which says that the GLC is considering the sale of 2,000 new homes in that borough alone. Tenants in Islington who had been promised a new home were now told that the properties were to be sold instead.

Mr Margaret Watson, chairman of Islington Housing Association, said a private conference, Mr George Tremlett, the GLC's housing policy leader, denied that the council was putting the houses up for sale, but admitted that the houses were under consideration for the setting up of co-operatives.

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LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE/BRIGHTON

Mr Foot invokes the spirit of Gaitskell in steering the party away from root and branch opposition to EEC

Demands for withdrawal from the EEC and even another referendum on the issue were swept aside at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton yesterday.

All the conference decisions rejecting withdrawal were heavily carried on a show of hands, so much so that no calls for card votes were pressed. The only resolution carried at the behest of the party executive's spokesman, Mr Michael Foot, Lord President of the Council, demanded fundamental reform of the common agricultural policy.

Mr Foot affirmed that, as the Prime Minister had indicated in his letter last week to the Labour NEC, the need for big changes to the common agricultural policy was already on the agenda for talks in the weeks ahead.

Pointing out that even after 15 years of differences of opinion within the party about the EEC the movement had sustained its unity, Mr Foot considered it would be a great error if they were now to butcher themselves to make a holiday for Mr Thatcher. He was sure they would not do anything of the kind.

The resolution opposing the common agricultural policy was moved by Mr Owen O'Brien (general secretary, National Union of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel). It called on the Government to oppose any artificial increase in food prices whether caused by devaluation of the "green pound" or increases in CAP prices; to seek a fundamental reform of the CAP so as to remove taxes on food and permit cheaper food imports.

A composite motion calling for withdrawal if negotiations failed to make changes to the European Communities Act 1972, Miss Betty Wilson (Birmingham, Yardley) said that ministers should bring proposals for change to the minister where they could be discussed properly and acted on, not just as a Commons should recover its right to have the final say in affairs. Socialists had boasted that the CAP as a means of ensuring a system to ensure planned production of food at reasonable prices.

"We must distinguish between having sensible stock levels of things like grains and unnecessary subsidies for other products, which have to be sold to Russia at giveaway prices or, preferably, but more expensively, subsidised for home consumption on a show of hands, so much so that no calls for card votes were pressed. The only resolution carried at the behest of the party executive's spokesman, Mr Michael Foot, Lord President of the Council, demanded fundamental reform of the common agricultural policy."

Mr Richard Balle (political secretary, Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society), seconded, said: "The EEC should be scrapped and replaced by a socialist food policy. The system was an affront to the third world and to the many hungry people in the Community. It was based on the needs of farmers in Spain, why was it not based on the needs of the people of the United Kingdom?"

Mr Steven Cohen (Newcastle upon Tyne, North) said: "We have been good boys for far too long. We need to make changes in the Community. The system was an affront to the third world and to the many hungry people in the Community. It was based on the needs of farmers in Spain, why was it not based on the needs of the people of the United Kingdom?"

Mr Ivor Lawrence (Cheshire) unsuccessfully moved an amendment calling on the NEC to co-operate with Labour members of the European Parliament and members of other European socialist parties to formulate a socialist manifesto for direct elections to the European Parliament. He said he was one of the Jews who came to Britain as a refugee from pre-war Poland in the middle of the 1930s, why was it not based on the needs of the people of the United Kingdom?"

Mr John Kote (Hackney, Central) said that at the time of the EEC referendum campaign the British people were sold the biggest five-card trick in their history. More trade union and individual members were opposed to entry. What the Labour Party lacked at the time was the big debate on the ship. It should now be party policy to lead the country out of the EEC.

Mr Foot, replying for the NEC, said that the party was not in a position to accept the proposition that the Prime Minister had put before the conference. He would say that the conference should be the best way for us to proceed.

The constitutional position was that the British people, parliament and government always had the right of decision from the EEC if that was what they wished. Mr Callaghan's proposals for discussion between the executive and the members of the Government can show the best way for us to proceed.

He recalled that at the 1962 conference the late Hugh Gaitskell expressed the deep anxieties of the Labour movement about the nature and constitution of the EEC.

Many people had prophesied that the Labour movement would destroy itself because of the passion and vigour felt by those who took different views on the matter. It was of great credit to the movement that it had survived that debate over 15 years that despite their deep differences they had still sustained the party's essential unity.

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Mr Foot (top) holding the party line on the EEC; Mr William Rodgers (centre) defending transport policy; and Mr Jack Jones castigating the House of Lords.

Urgent call for a wealth tax

Fair taxation was long overdue and Labour should not be backward in demanding high taxation on the rich, Mr Michael Foot (Edinburgh) said in successfully moving a composite motion calling on the Government to implement immediately its promise to introduce a wealth tax.

His motion also called for the raising of the threshold at which family income supplement and supplementary benefit were payable. Mr Foot said the party must devise a tax system which could be seen as positively beneficial to the lower-paid worker.

The motion demanded immediate government efforts to achieve a more equitable distribution of wealth and asked the executive to consider the reform of the tax system and tax allowances.

The wealth tax must be introduced urgently, Mr Foot said. It must stand as a symbol of intent to redistribute wealth, while being a fiscal measure in its own right. "If we believe in full employment, how can we support a system which penalises the lower paid for working?"

Mr Robert Holland (Coventry, West) said there were too many taxes on families, too many allowances for the wealthy and too many concessions to big business. Mr Michael Foot (Edinburgh) moved a motion calling for the total reform of the tax system. The motion said the poverty trap should be eliminated and real investment should be improved by shifting the basis of corporation tax from profits to sales revenue. It was resolved to the executive.

Another motion, unsuccessfully moved by Mrs Bridget McGeehan (Kilnrock), urged that rates should be subject to income-tax relief in the same way as mortgage interest payments, to alleviate masses imposed on council tenants.

Mr Anthony Roome (Hastings) said it was time Labour was seen as a party which brought the "crucial" to the party, especially the parliamentary party, had run away from the issue of a wealth tax for too long.

Gay Johnston (National Union of Public Employees) said it was disgraceful that the Government had failed to raise a wealth tax for the lower paid. The average local government manual worker earned £53 a week. If he had a wife and two children he would be on £42. In November, when benefits would be raised, he would receive £45.25 from the state for not working.

Mr John Cartwright (MP, Woolwich, East) for the executive, said that to make council rents subject to tax relief was not the best way of achieving the aim of reducing council tenants and home owners. If the tax system was used to help council tenants in that way, most help would go to the higher income, poorer tenants would derive no benefits.

Six million majority for abolition of the Lords

For the first time this week the party faithful really had some-thing to get worked about. The House of Lords, the conference wanted it abolished and to make the position clear, the party was divided 6,157,000 to 2,100,000 in favour of abolition.

The motion was moved by Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, and seconded by Mr Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, paved the way to the vote.

But the motion was not carried by a large majority. The motion was moved by Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, and seconded by Mr Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, paved the way to the vote.

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Universities must adjust entry standards to take account of social disadvantage

Recent Conservative proposals to adjust entry standards to take account of social disadvantage were welcomed by Mr Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, who said that the Government was committed to the principle of equal opportunities for all.

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Transfer of freight from road to rail supported

Although Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, stoutly defended the Government's White Paper on the subject of the transfer of freight from road to rail, he carried a composite resolution expressing deep disappointment with it reaffirming the need for a road to rail transfer.

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Immigrant leader speaks of 'betrayal'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent. The silence of Mr Callaghan on the subject of the National Front and its philosophy, Mr Tara Mukherjee, president of the Confederation of Indian Organisations, said yesterday.

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Universities must adjust entry standards to take account of social disadvantage

Recent Conservative proposals to adjust entry standards to take account of social disadvantage were welcomed by Mr Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, who said that the Government was committed to the principle of equal opportunities for all.

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Transfer of freight from road to rail supported

Although Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, stoutly defended the Government's White Paper on the subject of the transfer of freight from road to rail, he carried a composite resolution expressing deep disappointment with it reaffirming the need for a road to rail transfer.

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WEST EUROPE

Manny talks sugar farmers get sweet taste of success

Conference from Allan McGregor
Geneva, Oct 5

In last-minute bargaining, the 72-nation international conference today agreed on a new sugar agreement designed to ensure that it had a marketable price and supply.

The agreement, which was signed by Cuba and Australia, two of the main producers, and the European Community, which is a major consumer, was a compromise proposal that would allow the European Community to import more than 15 per cent in extra sugar from the rest of the world.

The agreement also provides for a free market in sugar.

Addressing the conference today, Mr Douglas, the Australian Minister, said that the agreement was a landmark in the history of sugar trade. He said that the agreement would allow the European Community to import more than 15 per cent in extra sugar from the rest of the world.

He also said that the agreement would provide for a free market in sugar.

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He also said that the agreement would provide for a free market in sugar.

Exporting countries with surplus sugar stocks are expected to bring a price increase. The minimum price is 11 to 21 cents, the maximum being about 40 cents.

The agreement also provides for a free market in sugar.

Basic export tonnage for the main exporters are: Cuba 2,400,000 tonnes (plus 100,000 tonnes for the Philippines), with Australia and Brazil having 2,350,000 tonnes each.

The agreement allows for a reserve stockpile of 2,500,000 tonnes plus 225,000 tonnes for the European Community.

Export quotas are to be lifted at 15 cents in a rising market and imposed at 14 cents in a falling one. When prices continue to rise after quotas are removed because of a shortage in the market, the price will be released in three equal parts, when the price reaches 19, 20 and 21 cents a lb.

The conference, due to end last Friday and now extended until the end of this week for consideration of the agreement, was the third attempt to reach an agreement this year.

French to be warned on hazards of drinking

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Oct 5

From now until the new year, French motorists are to be warned of the dangers of drinking and driving, or even walking in the street. The "Fédération Française des Véhiculistes" group are backing their campaign with statistics designed to frighten the most moderate of drinkers.

These figures show that 40 per cent of fatal accidents in France are in some way connected with drinking. A study at a large Paris casualty hospital of 328 fatal accidents showed that 38 per cent of the drivers responsible were under the influence of alcohol.

Italian anxiety over latest acts of violence

From Peter Nicholls
Rome, Oct 5

The face of two sadistic-looking men in a Durio bar set on fire with a petrol bomb, and the other in a state of shock in a Reggio Calabria hospital after kidnappers cut off part of his left ear—these are the latest acts of violence in Italy.

Signor Roberto Crescenzo, the young man fatally injured in the Reggio Calabria bar, is expected to die tomorrow. The municipality is paying for the funeral and the townsfolk are holding a wake for him.

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One of the 80 illustrations drawn by Queen Margrethe of Denmark to the new edition of J. R. R. Tolkien's trilogy "The Lord of the Rings". She uses the pseudonym Ingahild Grathmoe.

Communist leader sees chance of all-party programme for Spain

By Edward Mortimer

Within 10 days or a fortnight, Spain could have a political arrangement like that of Italy, with a government programme agreed by all democratic parties, including the Communists, but with the Communist minority Government of Señor Adolfo Suárez remaining in office to apply it.

Señor Carrillo, the Spanish Communist leader, said today that he was about to fly back to Spain after attending the first two days of the Labour Party conference in Brighton as an observer.

Señor Carrillo came out firmly in favour of reopening the border with Gibraltar. "We think you British should give us back Gibraltar," he said. "It belongs to us."

But, unlike the previous regime which closed the frontier and put up barriers, he said the democratic forces in Spain should develop contacts with the political and social forces in Gibraltar, in order to dissipate their mistrust and to convince them of our intention to respect the de facto situation which has been created: that Gibraltar could be a Spanish territory and yet keep a special status with its own police, its own administration and so on.

Señor Suárez invites party chiefs to talks

Madrid, Oct 5.—Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, today asked the leaders of all the main political parties to join him in a two-day crisis meeting at the weekend to draw up an "emergency plan" for solving what he described as "Spain's political crisis."

The invitation to the party leaders, including Señor Felipe González, the Socialist, and Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Communist, came as the Spanish Socialist Institute announced that the annual inflation rate has passed 30 per cent. The cost of living rose 3.2 per cent in August to total 20.8 per cent for the first eight months of the year: vast Europe's worst inflation rate.

The Government and the political parties should draw up an "emergency plan of economic recovery and reform" and try to agree on urgent legislation, such as the "Basic Law" which would set the framework for the new constitution.

Prince Philip's reported views on Gibraltar

Madrid, Oct 5.—The Duke of Edinburgh was today quoted as telling King Juan Carlos of Spain that Britain was fed up with Gibraltar.

In an extract from his memoirs, published in the monarchist daily ABC, Señor José María de Areilza, the former Spanish Foreign Minister, said the King quoted Prince Philip as saying in a private conversation: "Why the hell don't you get in touch with the people in Gibraltar and make some progress there? We're fed up with the story anyhow, and it is very expensive at that."

Señor Areilza said the King told him about Prince Philip's attitude on Gibraltar in December, 1975, shortly after he was sworn in as Foreign Minister.—Reuters.

Portugal emphasizes its republican tradition

From José Shercliffe
Lisbon, Oct 5

Portugal today held nationwide ceremonies to recall the proclamation of the republic 67 years ago. In Lisbon President Eanes laid a wreath at the foot of a statue of the great republican leader Antonio José de Almeida.

Some hours before the ceremony, someone defaced the bronze and marble statue with black and white paint.

Dr Soares, the Prime Minister, members of his Cabinet and all civil and military authorities were present at President Eanes' ceremony. The first of many wreaths, Air Force jets roared overhead during the ceremony.

Night-off for prisoners led to doctor's death

Lecce, Italy, Oct 5.—Four inmates of a local jail, apparently let out for a few hours by a warder, have been charged with the murder of a woman doctor during a robbery in this southern Italian town two nights ago.

Police said that after leaving the prison under cover of darkness, the four drove to the doctor's house, beat up the woman and her husband and ransacked the house, taking about 1m lire (about £550).

The doctor died but her husband survived and was able to identify the men. They were traced to the jail, where the four men were found in a cell. The warder suspected of letting them has been detained.—Reuters.

OVERSEAS

President sees rubble of South Bronx and gives \$543m aid

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Oct 5

President Carter announced today that he was giving more federal aid to New York. Then he went on a tour of the city's most blighted areas, the South Bronx, and satisfied himself that the money was needed.

The four-hour trip was unscheduled and local police were given only about 20 minutes' notice of it. Standing in the rubble of crumbled and crumbling tenements, the President ordered a study on how the area could be rehabilitated, "what ought to be salvaged and what ought to be torn down."

Many of the buildings in the South Bronx have been burned down by tenants who want to move into better premises or, by landlords seeking fire insurance payments. For this reason firemen call it Gasoline Alley.

Twice during the trip the President stopped and spoke to passers-by, nearly all black or Puerto Rican. His first stop was at an apartment building which is being rehabilitated by tenants, using federal money.

Elephant held by Texas policewoman

Houston, Oct 5.—A four-ton Indian elephant called Big Lydia led 10 police cars on a wild chase through Houston yesterday before she was captured by a seven-stone policewoman.

"I ran up and grabbed her around her trunk and she stopped," Officer Wanda Boehm said. "It is all kind of exaggerated because it is just my job."

The elephant was being unloaded for a circus performance when she was frightened by a police siren. She took off on her tour of Houston, causing damage at several stops.

UN envoy to discuss Rhodesia in London

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Lieutenant-General Prem Chand, the Indian minister at the United Nations special representative for Rhodesia, is expected to fly to London next week for talks with Lord Carver on how to handle the negotiations for a Rhodesian settlement.

He is arriving in New York from India for discussions at the United Nations at the end of this week, before proceeding to London. Lord Carver, who, as the British commissioner-designate for Rhodesia, has also been discussing his plans at the Foreign Office, intends to work hand-in-hand with General Chand.

Swedish Parliament bans Mrs and Miss

Stockholm, Oct 5.—Several years of feminist pressure for the abolition of "Mrs" and "Miss" in parliament proceedings have been successful and from now on the speaker of the Riksdag (Parliament) will call members by their names only. "Mr" has also been banned from official use.—Agence France-Press.

French to be warned on hazards of drinking

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Oct 5

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OVERSEAS

International meeting debates democracy beneath the Acropolis

From Charles Hargrove
Athens, Oct 5

A three-day symposium on the "future of democracy", organized by France-Culture, the French state radio station, opened here today in the theatre of Herodotus, under a blue sky which contrasted sharply with the gloomy picture drawn by most of the speakers of the storm clouds threatening democratic government.

The occasion has brought together a panoply of distinguished international personalities, including Dom Helder Camara, the Archbishop of Recife; Mr Vladimir Bakovic, a member of the Yugoslav Præsidium; M Michel Debré, the former French Prime Minister; President Luis Echeverría of Mexico; Mr Sean MacBride, the Irish barrister and politician; and Mr Mohammed Heykal, the Egyptian journalist.

Others attending include Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister; Mr Samuel Pizar, the Polish-American international lawyer; Professor I. K. Galbraith; Professor Arthur Schlesinger; and Mrs Helene Vlachos, the Greek newspaper owner and staunch opponent of the former dictatorship of the Greek colonels. The British were conspicuous by their absence. Sir Harold Wilson was due to come but cancelled his acceptance, as did Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister.

Mr MacBride said the classic system of parliamentary democracy worked well in periods of boom, but underwent a crisis when it was up against economic difficulties. "A return to such a system, as well as to the single party system, would deprive the Yugoslav citizen of many acquired rights", he said.

threatened by the "transformation of individuals into organized masses"; through a little knowledge, which was even more dangerous than no knowledge at all; through the weakening of political authority by pressure groups; and through the power of the executive.

Mr MacBride said the basic cause of the weakness of democracy today in the collapse of public morality, itself provoked by the scientific revolution of the last few decades.

Mr Pizar was less pessimistic: "If we have some hope in it, this is because it can combine economic prosperity with religious freedom. In Eastern Europe, Europe, there is very little freedom and even less prosperity. In the West, the economic animal is doing his job well, sometimes too well. The political animal is not doing his."

Protesters held by Belgrade police

From Richard Davy
Belgrade, Oct 5

Yugoslav police today detained two human rights activists lobbying on behalf of Latvians in the Soviet Union. They are a Miss Krasts, from Sweden, and Mr Olgers Pervoushka, from the United States. They were trying to attract the attention of delegates to the 35-nation conference reviewing the 1975 Helsinki agreement which contains provisions on human rights.

Another group, the Society for Human Rights of Frankfurt, has also been distributing information about violations of human rights in East Europe. They signatories protesting about these transgressions, but they have been more discreet than the Latvian group and this afternoon they were still at liberty.

Meanwhile, opening speeches continued today. The West German delegate made a cautious defence of human rights. He said the Belgrade meeting would be the place for a balanced assessment of what had been achieved and what had still to be done.



All smiles between Mr Moshe Dayan, Israel's Foreign Minister, and President Carter during their discussions in New York.

US-Canada economic link-up call

Ottawa, Oct 5.—The United States has unexpectedly suggested a form of common market with Canada to help solve both countries' economic difficulties.

Launching the idea publicly last week in Toronto, Mr Thomas Ender, the American Ambassador told a gathering of businessmen that each country had a "vital national interest" in the other's prosperity. He called for a joint solution for their economic problems, based on strict reciprocity, particularly in the fields of petroleum and energy.

Eskimo whale hunts embarrass US

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Oct 5

The United States has stuck itself upon the uncomfortable horns of a contemporary dilemma—over whales. The Americans have taken the lead in attempts to save whales from extinction. They push vigorously for smaller quotas every year, and may the Japanese and Russians, the last two large-scale whaling nations, remorselessly.

Unfortunately, one of the whales closest to extinction, the Alaskan Eskimos and the International Whaling Commission has just abolished their annual quota. The Eskimos are protesting vigorously, arguing that whale hunting is part of their traditional lifestyle and that the Government, which professes a determination to protect all American aborigines, and their way of life, should allow them to continue.

Problems of ending differences between Lebanese troops. Price to be paid for integrating an army

From Robert Fisk
Tyre, Oct 5

Captain Amin Kassem of the Lebanese Arab army takes lunch with his officers once a week at Tyre's best restaurant, the cafe of the Rest House Hotel one mile south of the town and within sight of the Israeli border.

For well over a year the Lebanese Arab army has been fighting a peculiar, almost unique struggle against what it considers to be the enemies of Lebanon. During the civil war, and under the quixotic leadership of Second Lieutenant Ahmed al-Khatib, it battled the Christians against the Christian right and its former Christian Lebanese army comrades.

Three of Captain Kassem's men have been in Beirut this week, talking over these demands with representatives of the new army's energetic commander, General Victor Khoury, who is a Christian, decides to do, is going to be of great importance for the future of Lebanon's armed forces. Dead-end of surrounding a national army, he can scarcely accept the entire Lebanese army back into the ranks without a murmur; some of Captain Kassem's men are believed to have been making a tidy sum in protection rackets these past few months. Equally, General Khoury is not going to cashier all the Christian Lebanese soldiers in southern Lebanon.

Soviet lead in ability to destroy satellites

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Oct 5

The United States is seriously perturbed at an apparent Soviet lead in satellite-destroying techniques. Some months ago Mr Harold Brown, Secretary of Defence, denied that the Russians had found a way of shooting down satellites with laser beams, but he admitted yesterday that they now have "operational capability" to destroy at least some American satellites.

its expenditure on research for a war in space. The American technique apparently is for the American missile to ram the enemy satellite. The Russians seem to prefer explosives.

The Pentagon says that it snaged a successful interception and destruction of a target satellite on June 17. Mr Brown's mention of "some" American satellites is said to refer to low-flying ones.

Nigerian assembly opens after 11 violent years

By Kenneth Mackenzie

Nigeria takes a big step towards returning to civilian rule and democracy with the opening today of the Constituent Assembly in Parliament Buildings, Lagos. Over the coming months the 293 members of the assembly will consider in detail a draft constitution and agree on a final form. Political parties will then be allowed to reappear and the military government has promised that full and free elections will be held in 1979. The soldiers will then go back to their barracks.

It is hardly surprising that the process is slow and careful, that people move on tip-toe, as it were. Since politicians last gathered at Parliament Buildings 11 years ago there has been a succession of bloody coups, counter-coups and attempted coups, and also a long and bitter civil war. Hundreds of thousands of Nigerians have died violently.

retained in some northern states—and local elections have already been held, as a sort of trial run for full elections. By all accounts they were fairly and enthusiastically contested, although there were no political parties.

The Constituent Assembly is also an elected body, apart from 20 members nominated by the military and some ex-officio members of the commission that drafted the constitution. It was an indirect election, with members of the local councils voting, and again there were no parties.

Three poachers die
Nairobi, Oct 5.—A special Government unit has shot dead three Somali poachers in Kenya's biggest game park. The poachers were shot after the poacher's clashed with the unit which recovered a large quantity of ammunition.—AP.

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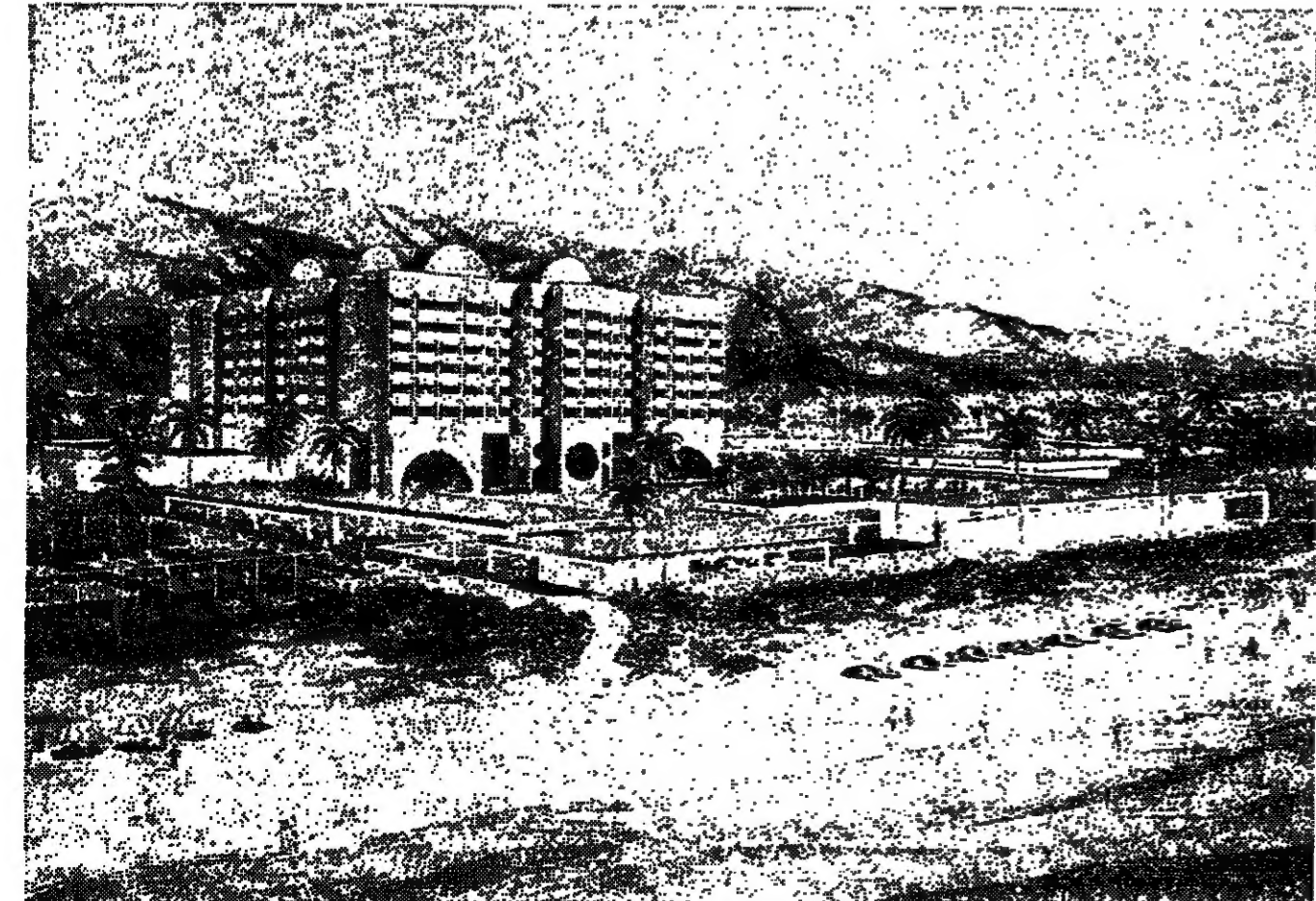
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Soviet arms for Ethiopia 'sent through Libya'

Cairo, Oct 5.—The Three Arabic daily newspapers in Cairo today printed identical reports saying that Benghazi harbour, in Libya, has been closed for more than a week to unload large quantities of Soviet weapons for Ethiopia.

Under a Benghazi deadline and quoting unspecified news agencies, *Al-Ahram*, *Al-Khaleej* and *Al-Gomhouri* said that the weapons included rockets and air defence equipment.

causing a political crisis for Colonel Gaddafi.—Reuter.
Nairobi, Oct 5.—Somalia said today that Ethiopian fighter aircraft had attacked a hospital in the Somali town of Jijiga yesterday, killing six persons and injuring nine others.

Terror threat to Japan

Tokyo, Oct 5.—Japan today began negotiating with Algeria for the extradition of five hijackers who seized a Japanese airliner over India last week and held it for five days in Bangladesh.

returned to Japanese custody, at least Algeria would prevent them from leaving the country and ensure that the money was not used to pay for further terrorist actions.

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SPORT

Football

No crowd problems as United's despair soon turns to delight

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Manchester United 2 St Etienne 0

Delay and passing despair after being disqualified from the European Cup Winners' Cup turned to delight for Manchester United at Old Trafford last night, as they overcame St Etienne's lively start, controlled the French attack through some excellent defending and then scored twice to qualify 3-1 on aggregate for a second round tie against Borussia Dortmund.

United's players, who had been understandably annoyed at being denied real home advantage, had no need to be apprehensive. They overcame St Etienne's lively start, controlled the French attack through some excellent defending and then scored twice to qualify 3-1 on aggregate for a second round tie against Borussia Dortmund.

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The one about the Irishman, the Belgian and the Scotsman: McIlroy (No 4) and Buchanan (No 6) question Mr Rion's decision but there was no argument about the final result.

Leicester end a gloomy run without lifting the gloom

By Michael Archer
Leicester City 0 Chelsea 0

Leicester City presumably were satisfied they had won a game of five consecutive league defeats, but there was nothing to suggest that even the return of the team to the stadium was a cause for celebration. There was no pattern, no punch, as for Chelsea, their inability to improve their record was a cause for celebration. There was no pattern, no punch, as for Chelsea, their inability to improve their record was a cause for celebration.

Leeds storm back after sluggish start

By Michael Archer
Leeds 1 Aston Villa 1

Leeds, unbeaten since the season's opening day, surrendered to a late point after being outplayed in the first half. Villa were the better side then and a defensive mix-up allowed Andy Gray, their Scottish international striker, to head a goal from the edge of the box.

Keelan's last word keeps Newcastle at bottom

By Gerry Harrison
Newcastle U 1 Ipswich 1

In the 65th minute Suggs broke free in midfield, unmarked, and put his cross on to the head of Wilson who accepted the opening graciously.

Ashurst is dismissed

Sheffield Wednesday have dismissed Len Ashurst, their manager, eight days after the other Sheffield Club, United, dismissed their manager, Jimmy Sirrel.

Last night's results and scorers

European Cup Winners' Cup First round, second leg

Manchester United won 3-1 on aggregate

Arsenal show loss for last season

Although their gate receipts showed an increase of £175,597 last season, Arsenal had a loss of £154,889. Total expenditure for the year increased by £346,443 totalling £1,080,831, of which £220,936 related to transfer fees.

Blackheath wing runs in three tries for Kent

Blackheath wing, Chris Kibbie, scored three tries on his home ground to give Kent a convincing county championship victory over Hampshire yesterday.

Olympic Games

Delegation from Los Angeles to meet ISF

Los Angeles, Oct. 5.—A delegation of three men flew to Monaco yesterday to discuss with the International Sports Federation the bid by the City of Los Angeles to host the 1984 Summer Olympics.

Modern pentathlon

Glenesk's fine swim lifts United States' position

San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 5.—The United States jumped from fourth to fourth place in the team standings of the 1977 world modern pentathlon championships here when Glenesk of San Francisco won the swimming event in three minutes 16.50 seconds.

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Berkshire escape with penalty in injury time

Dorset and Wiltshire 12 Berkshire 12

Forwards dominated in slippery conditions at Bournehead where an injury time penalty kept Berkshire from defeat.

24 letters

ANOTHER RECORD 25-a-p payout

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Blackheath wing runs in three tries for Kent

Blackheath wing, Chris Kibbie, scored three tries on his home ground to give Kent a convincing county championship victory over Hampshire yesterday.

Berkshire escape with penalty in injury time

Dorset and Wiltshire 12 Berkshire 12

Forwards dominated in slippery conditions at Bournehead where an injury time penalty kept Berkshire from defeat.

Horse of the Year Show

Miss Bradley breaks all records in week's most coveted event

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

Caroline Bradley, the most successful and hardworking woman rider in showjumping, swept the board in the British Dressage Championships for the leading showjumpers of the year at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley last night.

Elizabeth Cope three days later. Had he not run out of steam because he was not fully fit he might well have won against the clock.

Harvey Smith achieved a double by winning the British Top Score on Grifflin with 1,050 points, from Tim Crabbe on First Time with 780. Earlier, George Myer, one of the leading riders in South Africa, was the first to win the British Top Score on Grifflin with 1,050 points, from Tim Crabbe on First Time with 780.

Rugby Union

Lean spell ended in lively game

By Gordon Allister
Rugby Correspondent

East Midlands 13 Leicester 0

East Midlands, who finished bottom of the Midlands division in the 1976-77 season, were back in the top flight after a season of struggle, but they were not to be taken for granted.

Eagles have their wings clipped by Coventry

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Coventry 33 US XV 6

The story at Coombe in last night's match was a simple one: the longer a hard, humble and thoroughly enjoyable game lasted, the more the home fans were to be envied.

Dr Richards to play

Melbourne, Oct. 5.—It now seems certain that Dr Rene Richards will be allowed to play in a number of tournaments on the Australian circuit this summer.

Jorden's accurate kicking brings Counties victory

Eastern Counties 14 Surrey 8

The former England full back, Tony Jorden, who led Eastern Counties to an easy victory over Surrey in their county rugby championship match at Farnham yesterday, was the star of the side's 31 points.

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Foundation is set up to preserve

Harold Perlman Foundation has been set up to preserve the melting pot of racial and industrial presence in the financial district from two American institutions for its first project, investigation of prehistoric New York City. The foundation, North Yorkville organization is called the Harlow and Snow Foundation. Its members, including the city, are expected to raise \$12,000 for the project.

It needs \$12,000 for the Scorton Research. Promises of donations have been received from the Ava Gehard-Gorgand Foundation of New York, and the Westchester Foundation of Minnesota, as well as \$3,000 from the Department of the Environment. A quarrying site is being worked on at the site is allowing a year for the research to be completed.

The megathrust at Scorton were discovered in 1968 but the expert of the arrangements

[illegible]

champion sprinter may make a return visit to France on October 23 for an action on the Prix de la Vierge at Longchamps, where he has seven furlongs and open to every age group, the finish of this year one event was dominated last year by a pair of American imports.

Lady Mere. The alternative engagement for John Murrell's four-year-old in the Vernons event at Haydock Park on October 29.

Nell Adam, his trainer, feels that Gentildombra, whose versatility has already been proved with her wins in the 1,000 and 1,200 and six furlongs, deserves the chance to show himself—to be as quickly decisive as the champion on which he finished third to Wollow in the Greenham Stakes last year. His stud value would be high if he is able to win this event, but the final decision, of course, will remain with Mr. Murrell.

His reports that both Gentildombra and Haverold, whose objective remains the Prix du Haras National, are in good form, and that their skins after their triumphant return from Paris where they occupied first and third places in the 1,000 and 1,200, have told the trainer that the William Hill Sprint Championship winner will finish first or second by stumbling over leaving the stalls and there is every expectation that Haverold can reverse Sunday's defeat in the Madding in Paris on October 16.

Sad to relate the astute scaldic reception which greeted "the little Albert" was accorded to Paul Cook and Gentildombra after their decisive victory in the 1,000. A note from French official officers congratulating to Mr. Murrell or his trainer. Perhaps they were still unaware of the fact that after that controversial dead-heat with Meudon Man in this event in 1976. However, Gentildombra's performance has furnished conclusive evidence that he is a far better horse now than when awarded the July Cup on the disquieting day of his debut.

This afternoon at York Gentildombra

ham nursery with the Chester Cup, the Little Albert affair, this is a competitive event. Tavris has shown consistent form since taking a maiden event at Ripon in May and appears reasonably certain to win the 1,000. Her He Gos, despite his failure behind Demetrius in a similar race at Newmarket last week, deserves consideration after his earlier victories in Footpath and Great Yarmouth.

The lightly weighted Ziggurat, runner-up in the 1,000 at the Newmarket race, is a dealer of beating carrying only 3lb 5th. Pittencrif and Brother Sunshine are also worth a mention, but the chances in a tightly run handicap, but Tavris remains the selection.

On a tricky crack Crack of Light may represent the 1,000 as a vaguer in the Middleborough Stakes. Mrs Statopole Jock's filly showed herself to be still on the upgrade by winning her 1,000 in the season at Nottingham last week. Her win under 9lb 20th that afternoon reads better than Ram N'ar's win in the 1,000 of Millard Song at Newmarket.

In the day's most valuable event, the £3,000 Chesterfield Handicap, the 1,000 is a close-run affair. The course winner, Doormat, who shows signs of returning to his peak after a season for which he was heavily criticised by Baldon at Goodwood. The persistent Paulgiana recorded a fast time when caught in the 1,000 and the 1,200.

At York. The Goodwood and Doncaster scorers. Whenby, will find this five furlongs more to his liking than the distance of the 1,000, but he will still rely on Doormat.

Other selections at York are Salsburgh, the 1,000, and Maiden Stakes and Fear Naught in the Little Goo Handicap.

Vincet O'Brien tries for a rare treble on Saturday. He sends the 1,000 to the 1,200 to the Princess Royal Stakes; Pull the Latch to Naas for the Boitcaiter Stakes, and Padraig to Northern Ireland for the 1,000 and 1,200 Stakes at Down Royal.

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5617: 2m 200yd)

0222 Gypsy Reamer, 6-11-5 Barlow 6
Permissive Society, 3-11-5 Mr Weston 5

1-0 Sausy Doves, 5-11-6 Cecil Price 5
0-00 Sorbet, 3-11-5 The Gypsy Reamer 5

0-00 Wanaford Boy, 6-11-5 Franconia, 4-11-0
Coxmoore Sweaters, 4-11-0 Neil 5

P Major the Dragon, 4-11-0 Mr Bow-on 7.

6-3 Gypsy Reamer, 5-2 Coxmoore
Sweaters, 1-5 Wanaford Boy, 6-1
Sorbet, 0-1 Permissive Socy, 20-1
Sausy Dove, Enter the Dragon

SELECTIONS: 2.15 Davids Folly.
2.25 No. 2 Pelicans, 4.20 Glimmer How.
5.35 The Bo-Weevil, 4.20 Givens.
4.55 Gypsy Reamer.

the diplomat was argued for the article 40 only applied to agents and members of the diplomatic families when they were between the sending and the receiving state and not apply to them when merely visitors for whatever purpose. The majority of the court's judgment there was in the article itself and the court to take into consideration what the purpose of the diplomat's presence was, whether in the country, or in passing through, or was here, and the material time being taken up to or received, or was returned to the country. When one was dealing with a member of the diplomatic family (subject to the passport visa, which, from the evidence had), the conditions

territory of a third state, which has granted him a passport visa if such visa was necessary, while proceeding to make up or return to his post, or when returning to his own country; and that he shall accord him inviolability and such other immunities as may be required to ensure his transit or return. The same shall apply in the case of any members of his family enjoying privileges or

From two American scientists to its first project, investigation of prehistoric sites and avenues below ground level, North Yorkshire.

The organization is called the York and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, and its members wanted a site as significant as the stones.

From the Minnesota Foundation of Minnesota, as well as £2,000 from the Department of the Environment. A quarrying company working on the 300-acre site is allowing a year for the research to be done.

The megaliths at Scotton were discovered 27 years ago; but the expert of the arrangements by Mrs Bethel Van Skay, an American writer, and Mr Christopher Clarke, the Yorks Archaeological Trust.

Mrs Van Skay said yesterday: "We realized there was a real gap in the archaeological scene. Rescue has done marvellous work."

Further information can be obtained from the four Cony Street, St Helens, York YO1 1QJ.

Fashion

British fashion has been making a big push in Paris recently. There has been a promotion at Au Printemps featuring everything from Mary Quant to biscuits, and the opening of another Celtic haven, a Scotch House in Rue de Passy.

Below:
Lady Annamaria Asquith modelling the new Burberry look



Above: Customer and collection at Burberry in Paris

Right: Sir Leonard Wolfson, Managing Director of Great Universal Stores, at the opening of the new Scotch House

Far right: Lady Henderson, wife of the British Ambassador

Photographs by Jack Hebray



Above: Nostalgia of trend, or both? The Burberry show
Below: The British promotion in Au Printemps
Right: The Scottish devolution



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Tres encouraging for les autres

I must confess that when I first heard outlined the plans for the special British promotion in Au Printemps, my heart sank. Set to run in the main Boulevard Haussmann store and six stores in the Parisian suburbs until October 17, the whole thing seemed likely to exemplify all that evokes nostalgia, lip service to tradition, tourist-touting, backward-looking attitude that makes one despair of Britain as having any future above and beyond that of a larger Luxembourg. Red buses, bagpipers (was there a Beefeater tucked away somewhere?), tins of biscuits decorated with the Queen's head (the tins, not the biscuits, I mean), traditional china, British Leyland cars, baggy Shetland knitwear, drab kiddies' clothes (the clothes, not the kiddies).

My spirits reached their nadir when the altogether delightful man in charge of the Au Printemps promotion announced, in his Maurice Chevalier accent, that one of the reasons why the store chain—one of the largest in France—was mounting the three weeks' exhibition was "because fashion has come back to the British style". That made me feel like a stopp'd clock.

I shall never be able to think that it is enough for British designers to be right only once in every metaphorical and fashionable 12 hours. After all, as Lord Baker pointed out in a letter to *The Times* on Tuesday this week, "engineers and others, by their designs or inventions create wealth in the form of new firms or industries which provide employment for those who would otherwise lack work, goods for export which help to pay for some of our food. . . . Unfortunately the designer, in spite of the immense effort involved in successful innovation, often does not make money for himself. In other cases he makes a great deal—and so he should." For he creates wealth which pays for the welfare state and higher employment.

And so, I tend to push for novelty, not tradition. But there is a place for everything in trade as in life. Au Printemps is a charming, popularly priced store which is the perfect venue for the promotion of the expected as opposed to the avant garde. I mean no disrespect in this. Selling the merchandise is what counts at the end of the day, and it is as easy to be too far in front of your customers as it is to be behind—either, probably. The Au Printemps show has been a great success, with a handsome young man dressed up as Johnny Walker dispensing naps, Fortnum and Mason biscuits, Mary Quant fashion. An Printemps is amazing: on one counter is a ritz promotion for Charlie cosmetics, while painted on a neo-Grecian column nearby is a poignant poster inviting people to adopt a stray cat or dog. In the British section, firm favourites such

as Gloverall, British Airways, Marcliff, Harlequin, Liberty, Pringle, John Lings, Beatrix Potter, copy-Stuffordshire dogs, and some really very pretty bits of antique furniture, at sub-ambulant prices, jostle each other.

They are selling. The British Overseas Trade Board section responsible for promoting the country, when, in early November (TV transmission a week later) our ambassador in Paris allows me to use his house to show what I consider our most important trend-setters. John Bates, Bill Gibb, Jean Muir, Yuki, Jean and Martin Pollard, Zandra Rhodes, Then Porter and Gila Fratini may be names which most women would automatically discard as out of their price range. Nevertheless, they are the designers who, in Lord Baker's terms, "by their designs or inventions create wealth in the form of etc".

If only they made more money for themselves. But at least being shown in Paris, being recorded on television by Yorkshire TV will put, I hope, some of the innovative credit where it is due. I have been nagging and whining to use the Paris embassy to show what I call fashion ever since we went into the BEC, so no one need think that our admirable and extremely sympathetic ambassador has been coerced by the Think Tank's report on the role of embassies.

If one wanted to be revolutionary one ought to argue that the swing towards British fashion which is implicit in the vogue for tweed jackets, kilts, skirts, woolly socks, boots, caps, etc. in short the grousemoor image, which is high fashion for autumn, 1977, really favours the Scots. The French are frankly manic about tartan: kilts, socks and cashmere, with or without pearls. Forsaking Debussy for the bagpipes, they sit unmoved through the shrieks and wails of the Scottish ultimate deterrent ("Yes," said one concise listener, "I do like them, but only a very long way—two or three gigs, y'know—away") and stay on to buy and buy.

Why? Why should the Scotch House have opened another store in Paris, in Rue de Passy, which brings its total to eight? Why does Burberry, with its inherent plaid image, sell so well—the biggest exporter of high quality menswear from this country, helping to push the figures for its parent company, GUS, to £1,050m turnover for last year and profits of £112m? I think it is because Scotch House and Burberry spell out just the

sort of confidence and quality which women are looking for just now. The whole design world is a-buzz, it seems. First, I have resolved how to spell Lucie by being sent letters from women who worked for the house, and now, the most ravishing programme for a show for spring, 1979, confined to me by one of the mannequins, Jayne Cole. Miss Cole, who shared the honours with Melisande, Claire Hilgred, Denizard, Gay Bonita, Phyllis Ruth and "two whose names I don't remember" was deputised to wear No 32, "Virgin's Prayer" White Indestructible Vyle Afternoon Gown; "Atta Boy", a Blue Serge One Piece Dress; "I'll do the Same", Grey Striped Taffeta Frock, which followed a number called "Do what your Mother Did" among others.

The sensational book about Russian fashion from Collier's in Charing Cross Road has now been translated by Liverpool Polytechnic under the guidance of indomitable Charles Metcalfe, so we can now understand as well as admire *From the History of Soviet Costume*, by Tatyana Stralshanova, translated by Geoffrey Turner. I have been making curtains (no, the old ones never fit) on a machine lent by Singer. It is their basic model and I wish I found it as well designed as my 30-year-old number. One, I find the threading hard; two, you have to pass the thread straight back against a shiny silver pillar, rather than good old sideways; and third, when I reverse I need not two but preferably three hands, and on my machine as far as I can see I have to hold in the reverse button rather than just flicking a lever. McCall's, coping perhaps with people reduced to one hand, have produced a set of patterns called "Show Me" which cut out buying any other booklet. Priced at 75p, the eight basics look good style and value to me.

Congratulations to the John Lewis Partnership for sponsoring something right in their main line—students for fashioning fabrics. Every time I shop elsewhere I regret it, frustrating though the Partnership can be. But their ideas on design are superb, their marriage of taste to price just what I think good design is all about. They have given the RSA a special jubilee award scheme for printed furnishing fabrics valued at £1,500. My only grouse: not enough travel abroad for this winner. Light colour, tactile sense . . . you can always come back to your home land, and probably you should, for inspiration, but a great deal of inspiration is information. How can you know what to regard or discard unless you have seen it? The RSA also has a travel grant for working designers (close to my heart) in the textile industry. The Worshipful Company of Weavers will give £500 in a travelling bursary.

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Masters of the arts
of licensing

There must be a thousand clichés and myths concerning the French and fashion, and most of them are true. While the British contribution to style, in historical terms anyway, can be confined to the wellington boot, the raglan sleeve and the umbrella, the French are busy banging the gong of Dior—who died in 1957 and invented the New Look 10 years earlier. In an age when three quarters of the world with any option seems to be wearing blue jeans they are going fine with the haughtiest of haute couture. Bergdorf Goodman of New York has even started buying couture pieces again including among its suppliers Hubert de Givenchy, probably the most expensive dressmaker in the world. The store reports a sell-out.

In a recent edition *The Economist* devoted an article to the rebirth of French couture and said takings from the three most prominent houses, Dior, Saint Laurent and Cardin, accounted for "two thirds of total Paris fashion house turnover of \$650m a year in couture, ready-to-wear and women's wear, and licensing".

It is in the last word that the secret of French fashion lies: the fashionable arts—and in these include perfume and accessories, though not make-up. But successful licensing of design names is an art in itself. It is one which the British have not so far mastered and which the French have mastered immaculately.

To license a name you must have a name, to be sure, but you must support it by publicity, conviction, competence, snob appeal and above all by investment in the money and managerial talent.

In Paris, the house of Dior survived its founder's death. Pierre Cardin is in fact now largely concerned with diversifying into cars and radios and virtually anything which will take a "design" name: while Yves Saint Laurent rolls along on a royalty from the manufacturers of his Rive Gauche label, who in turn sell off-licensed "RG" boutique outlets round the world.

But it is all very closely controlled. I do not know if Marc Bohan actually sees every Dior corset design, but you can bet that someone knows if he is going to do a shape in the couture collection which will require something different. No Saint Laurent item can go out without the sanction of the mother house. Cardin's reins are equally tight.

Behind the convincingly successful names are a handful of very hard-nosed business managers who are good at managing fashion and a great many more talented craftsmen who are good at serving fashion.

As Balenciaga told me, the era of couture was less when you could not find a handmade silk rose of the right shape in Paris, but you can find a surprising number of other things.

It is a myth that the French are necessarily better dressed, since, as Katharine Whitehorn once pointed out, the average garb 50 miles outside Paris is a striped synthetic shift of indeterminate shape, longer at the front than the back, and worn with bedroom slippers.

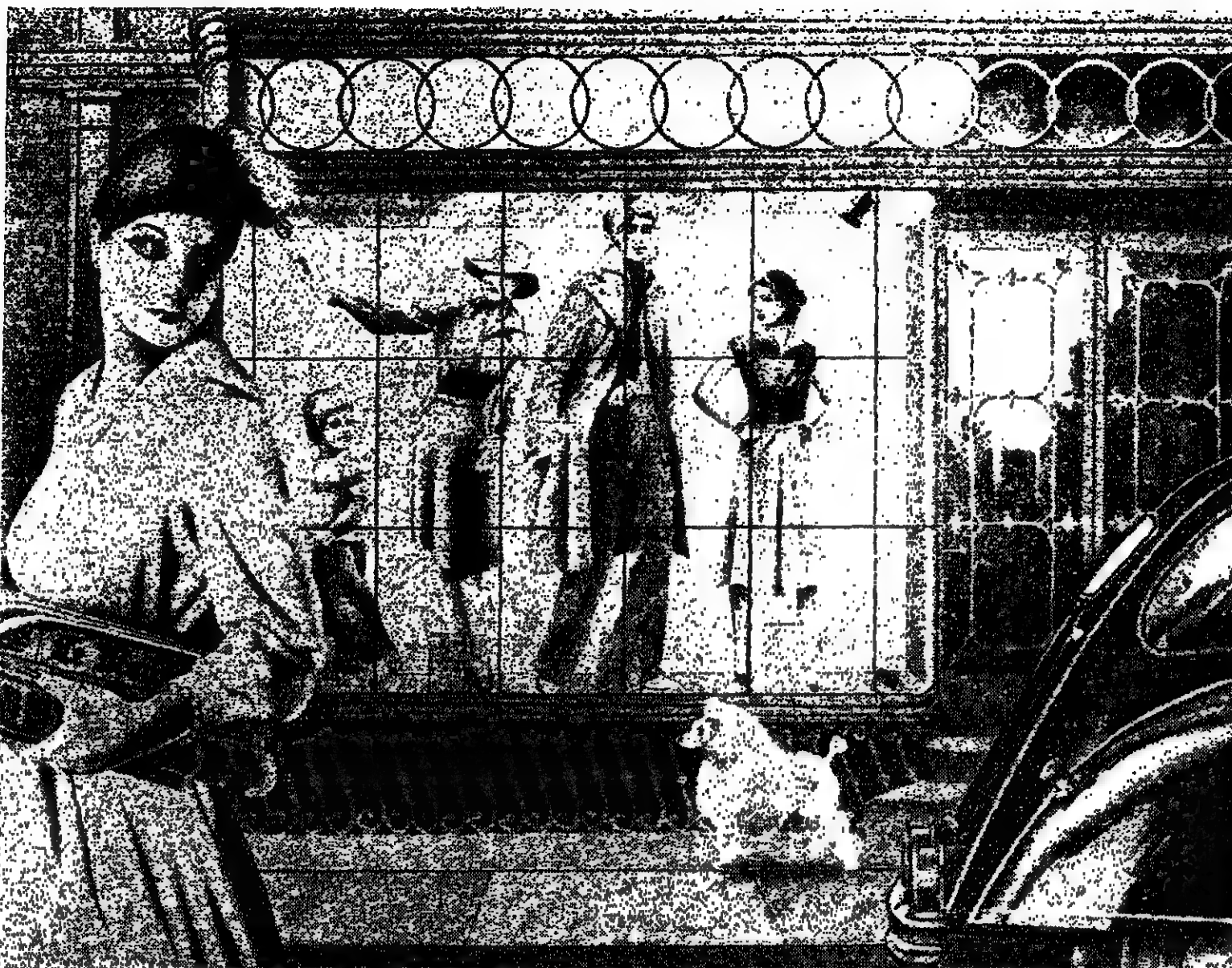
What the Frenchwoman has is an inborn interest in and affection and respect for dress; a sense of spending priorities (do not forget state education) which enables her to further this taste if she wishes on the other hand do not forget food prices; and a sympathetic ambience in which to try new styles.

The saleswoman behind the narrowest counter will want to know what you think; so will the taxi driver. There are no Puritan hangups about fashion being wicked self-adornment. In other words, for centuries fashion to the French has been not the work of the devil but the preoccupation of the people.

Prudence Glynn
Fashion Editor, *The Times*

Fashion in
France

a Special Report



Bill Prosser

Silks victims of
tradition

by Ian Murray

The silks and printed taffeta industry has fallen on hard times in France. Beautiful swaths of coloured cloth, each individually designed and hand printed, are still produced by the thousand each year, but the producers are struggling.

High quality of design and manufacture has long been the hallmark of French fabrics. The methods that have made them famous over the years are still followed and the finished products are still as lovely as ever.

The present gloom is felt internationally and goes right through the market from the most expensive to the cheapest. The Italian multi-national company, Montedison, is seeking to close most of its synthetic tissue operations in France.

Union negotiators held the managing director captive most of one night when he recently announced redundancy plans. But that makes it more difficult for the top end of the market, which relies heavily on a booming trade at the base on which to build.

French silks are the most important fabric in the fashion industry. They are mostly produced in Lyons by methods that have been handed down through generations of craftsmen.

Only 18 of the top fabric houses form the *Chambre Syndicale des Maisons de Tissus Spéciaux de la Couture*. At their factory a small team of designers work through the year to produce patterns to present to the haute couture designers.

The designs, once worked out, are passed to the craftsmen to make. For each pattern about six screens are necessary and each one has to be carefully hand-drawn and costs about £20. The length of cloth is laid out on a long table and printed by hand in sections with each of the screens.

Other processes are used to add lustre to the cloth, to favourite among the fashion designers, who make about 60 per cent of their best clothes from them. That makes it a skilled craft, but even if the standards are high, the work and where such exacting standards are required and the least mistake can make a length unusable.

less. It is not surprising that the cloth has to sell at £20 to £25 a yard to be worth while.

But often it does not sell at all. The telling moment comes twice a year when the clothes designers inspect the collections of the textile houses to choose the fabrics for realization as a "Paris creation".

One textile house may create about 1,200 exclusive designs a year and would feel lucky to have 200 of them chosen for the collections. For the chosen there can be a bright future with the repeat orders. The rest, however, must be sold off their hands.

The top end of the market is getting more competitive. Designers may choose any fabric they want from a worldwide range and it is there that the domestic industry loses.

Italian companies are moving into the market and are starting to cream off some of the best orders. The fashion houses say the Italians are often cheaper, cheaper and offer a wider range of fabric. Their selling is competitive and their production methods modern.

The French fabric houses are suddenly finding themselves the victims of a traditional method of which they are so proud. Whereas they once felt confident that they could sell on their skill and flair, they now find that those qualities are no longer theirs alone. Traditional methods of manufacture make it difficult to streamline their production and dress designers are finding that an Italian company will match their specifications in half the time.

There is also the growing difficulty of finding staff able to produce fabrics on traditional looms. The industry does not attract many young people and the specialized skills needed are hard to come by. The answer is to modernize quickly, but even if the money was there it might be too late.

For the moment, French fabrics are still the favourite among the fashion designers, who make about 60 per cent of their best clothes from them. That makes it a skilled craft, but even if the standards are high, the work and where such exacting standards are required and the least mistake can make a length unusable.

Franchises spell a ready-made success

There cannot be many who could afford it really, but the French President has ordered that a loss be made on clothes.

When the French President, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, had failed to notice, individual customers in the however, was that there was a risk. There cannot be a new and growing class in any hard-selling businesses: the world—the wealthy middle class. They might not be.

This string of paradoxes in the superstar salary realized in the world of brackets, but they still appreciate haute couture, it is stated, quality, and could previously a strange world, effort to pay for it. What with 23 great houses, the President missed the mark for the most part, couture trade aimed for—lost together in the eighth and scored a bullseye.

By expending out of the limitations of the craft workshop and granting carefully-monitored franchises to manufacturers, the great bout 1950m a year and an accessibly bright future, began to make their dreams high-class craft industry sense felt beyond the eighth giving the life to President Giscard d'Estaing, until today ambition who declared not they are known in every it that long ago, a High Street in the world.

This proselytizing of the cult of Paris fashion has been sudden and recent. Although Paris has been considered a world capital—could afford to pay as much many would say the world capital—of fashion for generations of women, it is only in the past two decades that it has been within the reach of women everywhere.

It has happened for two complementary reasons. On the one hand, soaring costs have pushed the real haute couture creations out of the reach of all but the few, on the other hand there has been a growing need for individualism and quality in clothes by a growing number of people in a class that either did not exist before or which did not bother to take the trouble before.

The switch from the artistry of haute couture to the commercialism of ready-to-wear garments was a difficult one to make. The great designers were reluctant to seem to go down market and apparently to debase their skills. Only the fact that their customers had moved from 25,000 to about 5,000 and were continuing to diminish in number made some of them prepared as they saw it—to demean themselves.

They were fortunate that through their very exclusivity they had created a strong central union to see them through. The *Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne* lays down the

rules of entry to this exclusive club of 23 and it has given the lead into the world of ready-to-wear to those members too proud or scared to take the plunge.

The *chambre* has done much to encourage new methods and systems which cut down the cost of the great collections, while at the same time keeping a careful watch on standards.

The *chambre* runs a training school with the 1 per cent levy on salaries that it charges and has encouraged the workshops to be streamlined in ways that gave up to 20 per cent of the time taken to produce a dress.

They have also reduced the number of dresses that one fashion house is expected to show at each collection to a minimum figure of 65 dresses—still thought to be adequate for a good designer to express a tendency.

Despite these savings there is no doubt that the twice-yearly collections are run at a loss. It can cost something like 2m francs (£235,000) to put one on from it directly.

But what it does bring is prestige, free advertising and therefore the vehicle to sell the name of the fashion house on a wide scale. The collections attract journalists from all over the world and the *chambre* makes an estimate that about 1,500 pages in newspapers are devoted to them.

Dior, which was one of the first to diversify out of the haute couture world into the more profitable one

of boutiques, can produce figures that underline how the trend has grown. In 1947 the house employed 80 people and had a turnover of about £750,000. Last year the 1,000 employees, plus the different subsidiaries and licensed outlets the turnover was £88m—in itself a 25 per cent increase on the previous year.

Of the 23 members of the *chambre* only one, Marc Gréa, is not yet in the ready-to-wear trade, although even she is this autumn to start producing signed scarves, to lend her name to jewelry and to open her first boutique.

But as the figures show the extension of the fashion houses' business does not stop at clothes. Haute couture accounts for an average 16 per cent of their business and ready-to-wear for 40 per cent. The biggest money-spinner of all, though, is perfume. Of the £958m earned by the trade, £588m came from the scents hearing the names of the different houses.

On top of that there is the growth of the business

into the accessories, luggage, spectacles, handbags, belts and scarves. The *chambre* is happy that anything within the "personality" of the trade of clothing a person should be included in a range. Cardin has taken things further in giving his name in approval to wines and chocolate.

Saint Laurent has carpets and Dior sells sheets. There are some in the trade, and Marc Bohan at Dior is one of them, who think that things have gone far enough in this direction. He says it would be easy to capitalize on the name today and sell almost anything with the name. But he feels the inevitable result would be that quality would suffer, the prestige of the house would wane and the whole carefully constructed image would collapse.

Others feel that the future lies in expanding into the home environment, creating furniture, wallpaper and even house design as part of the sewing may not happen, but the temptation and the market are both there.

For the immediate future the men's market is becoming more and more important. Only eight of the houses now do not design men's clothes, but the share of business behind them will be looking at the way, for example, Cardin's sales figures in this area have risen from 6 to 14 per cent in a year, and the range must therefore grow.

The problem is how to impose quality on the growing market. Franchises to manufacturers are granted basically in two ways. Either the fashion house sells the design to a manufacturer and draws a royalty on sales of the product, or the house has the items made by a manufacturer for sale in its own boutiques or outlets. Either way the manufacturer is subject to strict control, sometimes with a representative of the fashion house actually based in the factory.

Generally the aim is to find manufacturers whose product quality can be relied on because they are all acutely aware that poor quality goods will ruin the image.

There is also the danger that the quality of design may fall below those standards expected of a great name.

The success of the new business is its greatest danger. The difficulty of quality control, if it grows too much, is a real one. The risk of over exposure of a style if too many are sold could also spoil things.

Nevertheless, the *chambre*, no less than the fashion houses, is enthusiastic about the future and the potential growth in a number of areas. M. Jacques Mouchier, president of the *chambre*, is proud of the fact that the combined turnover is a third of that of the entire French steel industry and while steel needs to be subsidized steel runs at a profit and uses up little energy to boot.

"We can be proud," he says, "of France of the Concorde, and of France of the haute couture. And they need our taxes to help pay for Concorde."

I. M.

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Charles Hargrove talks to two leading designers: one the king of fashion for women,
the other the emperor of taste for men

Yves Saint Laurent: by trapeze to the top



Fashions come and go. Born one day, gone the next. It is nearly 20 years since Paris had the revelation of a new genius of the haute couture, when Yves Saint Laurent, then aged 21, launched his trapeze line at Dior which went straight to the top.

Now, a trifle greying and bespectacled, he is still there, as confirmed a romantic and an idealist as ever, unspoilt by fame and business success.

For him success started from the time, 10 years ago, "when I realized that a couturier was not a man who should use women to try out his new ideas and his tastes, who treated them like dummies on which to

hang his creations; but that the important thing was woman herself, a woman's body."

"Then I began to feel my art and develop my style. There has been a tremendous liberation of women in all fields of life, but also in fashion. Women are conscious of themselves as individuals. They refuse to bend to the dictates of dress designers."

"Fashion today is a reflection of life. A couturier must stick to it if he wants to succeed. It was not so in the old days. He ruled absolute in a world apart."

He says that 25 years ago what gave him great satisfaction at Dior was to take simple everyday clothes and look down on as ordinary at the time and style them for the modern woman. "I

always keep an eye on the street", he says.

M Saint Laurent thinks that haute couture is doomed in the long run. "It will be dethroned by prêt à porter, because that is the future."

Haute couture, he asserts, is not a commercial affair. Even when a collection is successful it loses money because the cost is so high. "But it is a pleasure I give myself. I have never done anything for commercial reasons anyway. It is also a duty for me to go on producing the grand collection as long as I can. It keeps alive dozens of skilled craftsmen. I owe it also to my staff who have helped me to become what I am for the past 20 years. I would feel very guilty if I did not go on. My reputa-

tion, unlike that of some houses, does not need haute couture. I could do without it. It is an enormous effort to produce four collections a year, and to want to succeed."

He continued: "I have always been torn between conflicting influences; between the past, tradition, an artistic education, and the future. I always had much more of a feel for the future than others, but with a very strong touch of the past. It prevents me from moving ahead too fast. If I were very young today, I would not work as I do. I would devote myself entirely to prêt à porter, to cheap clothes. My dream would be to design the uniform of the future, some-thing like the Mao suit but less rigid. But to do so, I

would have to abandon tradition. That is something impossible for me now."

He thinks the future of fashion is the uniform. Young men and women already wear the same clothes. He thinks that people in the street are much better dressed than in the past.

"When you are young and pretty, you do not need so many clothes. With time a woman becomes more vulnerable, more conscious of artifice. That is the privilege of older women. It is their mystery. A young woman has no mystery. She acquires mystery when she gets old, and one gets old very young," he muses.

He did not think Paris was likely to lose its place as the centre of fashion, but "There is something exclu-

sive to Paris called French taste. But fashion has been linked to Paris throughout history, especially since Paul Poiret at the beginning of the century. Special skills have been developed especially for women's fashions. All that has been perturbed."

He concluded: "I destroy the past, you have to know it intimately. The avant garde does not exist on its own. It is always inspired by something which has gone on before."

"I am the last of the grands couturiers. The young man of talent who have the madness to become one these days? It is bound to disappear. And yet, who can tell, who could have told that one day one would create pretty clothes accessible to all?"

Pierre Cardin: creator not clothes' merchant



If Yves Saint Laurent is the "king of fashion", Pierre Cardin is the emperor of taste, who has transformed, in the words of Time magazine, what he calls his sense of taste into a worldwide industry.

He designs everything from dresses to bicycles, sports cars, kitchen furniture, watches, chocolates and wine; and he is about to open showrooms in his location of the Faubourg St Honoré where he will stage collections of furniture two or three times a year. He even makes kimono.

He has sold more than 380 licences for his designs in 50 countries throughout the world, 48 of them with Japan alone. He employs 25,000 people, and his turnover runs to some 50,000m francs.

He is the first of the leading dress designers to have opened a boutique of prêt à porter. It was in 1959, and it caused a storm of protest. "You will kill haute couture", he was told. But he

replied that it was the only way for haute couture to survive.

The same year he decided to launch into men's fashions. "It was a piece of extraordinary audacity," he says, "to challenge London's established leadership in that line." Now he is undoubtedly the unchallenged leader in that field, not only in France but abroad.

No emperor was less imperial or dominating in manner and approach. He is a quiet, kindly, soft-spoken, melancholy man, who lives solely for his art and his work, a little sad that he has so often been misunderstood.

"But what counts is the results. My reputation is worldwide," he says with quiet affection. He was a pioneer in prêt à porter, in menswear, in children's wear. Everyone criticized but everyone followed. He has been described as first and foremost a designer and a businessman. But his great pride is, on his own

admission, that he has remained first and foremost a "couturier".

The fact is, however, that his men's line now accounts for two-thirds of the turnover of the House of Cardin. It all started in a rather amusing way. He ordered a suit from a well-known London tailor, and he was disappointed with the result.

So he designed a collection. "The first two or three models were greeted with a kind of irony. But after that there was round upon round of applause. It was a completely different style, non-conformist, relaxed, sporting."

"I dressed young men in loose pullovers, with scarves instead of ties. People were scandalized at the time. It was a style for bohemians. Now you see it everywhere. The evolution of men's fashions in the past 20 years is extraordinary."

"I am a professional", he says. "That is what has

made my success. There are only two or three others in Paris. I can make a suit with my own hands. Others just design them. I produce one collection for men each year. Of course, I design extreme clothes. I look 10 years ahead. Two years ago I launched my 'anti-conformist' line. Wide-bottom trousers were still the rage; I designed narrow ones. Now you see narrow trousers all over the place."

I mentioned those specimen outfits displayed in his boutique opposite the Elysée Palace. "What you see there are prototypes. I am not interested in being a clothes' merchant. What I am is a creator, but launching ideas and getting them accepted, is a long process."

I asked him to sum up his new men's style—the "anti-conformist" line, also called "invertebrate"—in a nutshell. "I have done away with all stiffness and padding. Coats are looser, less waisted. The general appearance is more virile."

more athletic. The materials are light. There are many linen suits."

The trousers are reminiscent of the Oxford bags of old. The jackets look like smoking jackets. But there is also a "space" line, with more conventional three-piece city suits, in pin-stripes and flannels, wide shoulders and narrow at the hips, with buttonless coats, since one never buttons a coat on a waistcoat, Pierre Cardin has decreed. You can have one of those made in his boutiques to measure from 4,500 francs.

I asked him rather gingerly whether in menswear English materials were still supreme. He replied rather diffidently that the Italians had wonderful ones, especially cashmeres and mohairs.

"I don't want to say anything unkind about English fashions or English patterns. The quality is very fine, but the design is

always the same. It cannot be poor, it is like a Chaco suit. It is timeless."

But men's fashions were less changeable than women's. "You cannot bring in a new style every six months," he insisted. "When I think I had the audacity to take on the leadership in men's fashions, I am a little agitated. But I have achieved wonderful results."

"Look at the evolution of style in 20 years. People on the streets are much more attractive nowadays. French youth is much better dressed than other countries. Twenty years ago London dominated men's fashions; now Paris is the leader."

"I do not want to sound preconcious, but the fact that no line in menswear as well known as mine throughout the world—except in England? How was done? By hard work, integrity, confidence, and persistence and—creativity was the answer."

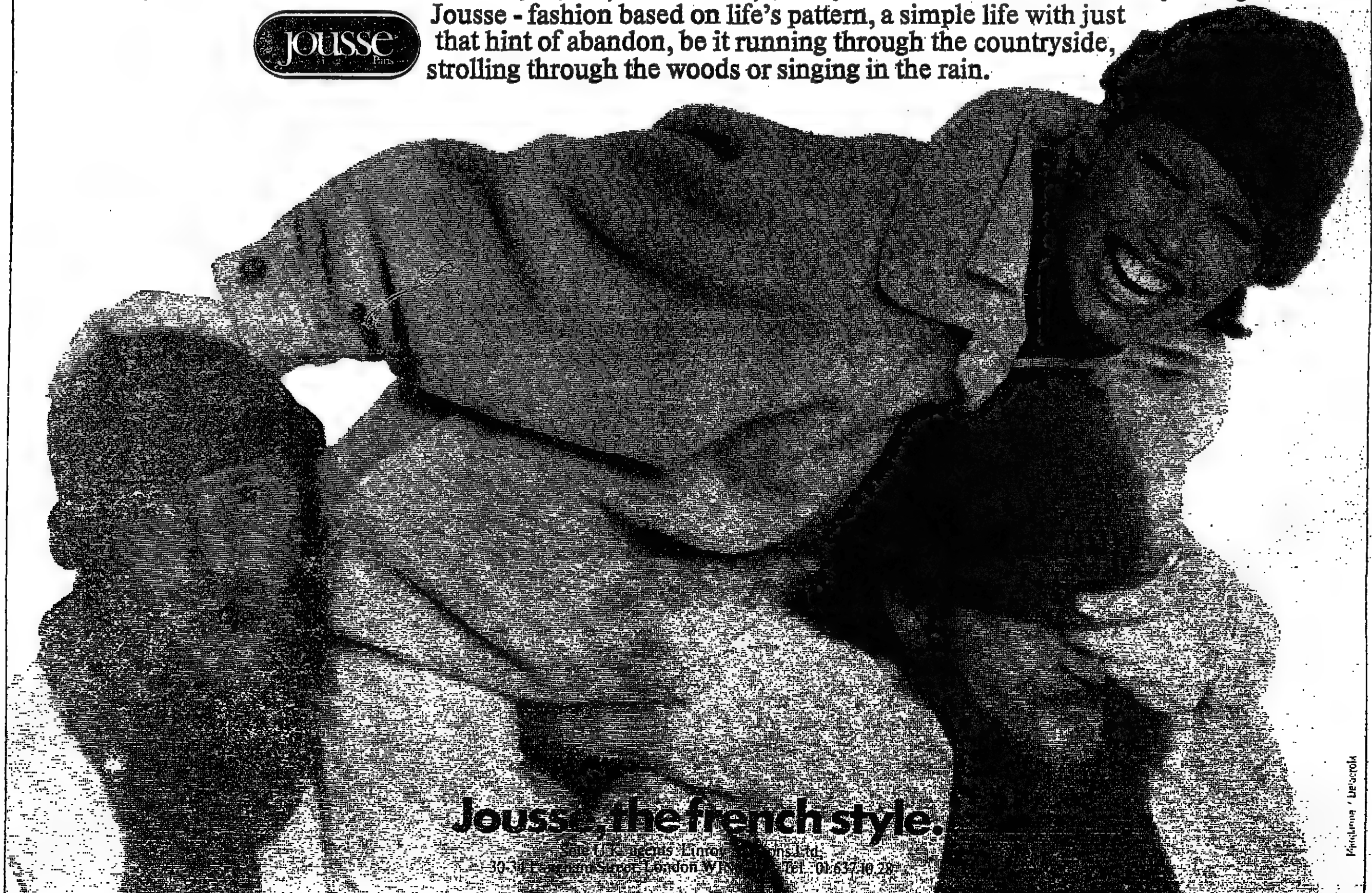
Photographs by Carlos Frère

Jousse: pick the French style.

Autumn rusts, moss greens and winter whites combine with tweed, flannel, corduroy and soft wool to dominate the new Jousse collection. The blouson featured below is a direct descendant of the jacket still worn by shepherds today in southern France. It is casually styled, in off-white, loosely woven wool... comfortable yet elegant.



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هكذا من الأهل

Why a slanging match must not get in the way of human rights

by Dr David Owen

the Foreign Secretary

Détente has lost momentum. This is in sharp contrast to the euphoric years of the first half of this decade. What has gone wrong?

In the nature of things we cannot realistically expect détente to maintain the momentum of the early 1970s. The first and easier stage of détente is now over. This is in no sense meant to belittle the earlier achievements. The détente process has managed to move East and West away from the dangerous hostility of the Cold War. It has brought the two sides to recognize a common interest in so managing their relations that they can avoid military confrontation and nuclear war.

As a result of 25 years' hard work by American, European and Soviet leaders, East-West relations are today more stable and the world safer. There is less risk of the kind of situation which, at the time of the Cuba crisis, Mr Khrushchev detected a "smell of burning in the air".

This is a substantial, and I hope, a lasting achievement. But we must be realistic and recognize that the détente process started from a low base-line and represents to date only a limited, though vitally important, accommodation in Europe and between the superpowers. Soviet involvement in Angola and the enormous effort put by the Soviet Union into military expenditure—around 12 per cent of GNP—illustrate the present limitations of détente.

The issues which today dominate the agenda of East-West relations, not least the arms control issues, are increasingly complex and intractable. It is for instance almost three years since the last major achievement of US-Soviet relations, the Vladivostok understanding on strategic arms limitation which was

to pave the way for a full SALT II, but which has yet to do so.

The problems of détente today have also begun to impinge on fundamental attitudes to society and human behaviour. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the field of human rights.

Recently human rights have pushed themselves into the forefront of international affairs. President Carter's determination to give a higher priority to foreign policy to the values which lie at the core of American democracy has had a lot to do with this. So has the growing publicity which has been given to the quite appalling things which unfortunately go on in every quarter of the globe.

World opinion, as never before, is conscious of the need to raise the human rights profile in the conduct of international relations. At the root of all this is the realization that we shall never have a world in which peace, stability and prosperity are the rule, rather than the exception, unless there is also respect for basic human rights and civil liberties. This is true whether we are talking about the Middle East, southern Africa, or North-South or East-West relations.

It was for this reason that in the Helsinki Final Act two years ago we, together with our partners in other democratic countries, successfully sought to include provisions pledging

signatory states to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms and to permit the free exchange of people and ideas. Now we want to see the full implementation of the Helsinki Final Act.

It would be unreasonable to expect to achieve this overnight. In pressing for full implementation, we are in many areas dealing with deep-seated fears and prejudices which in the nature of things will take time to dissipate. The purpose of the Final Act is fundamentally long-term—as a charter and code of behaviour for what we hope in time will become a more normal and open relationship between governments and peoples in Eastern Europe as well as between East and West.

The aim of the Belgrade meeting, which opened on Tuesday, will be not only to review progress in implementing the Final Act, but also to help us take another stage forward in the evolution of this relationship.

It follows that we do not want to get into a slanging match at Belgrade with the Soviet Union and her allies; this would be totally self-defeating. But we do have an obligation with the other participants to conduct a thorough review of how the Final Act has been implemented so far; and where we consider the performance of other countries to be demonstrably unsatisfactory, we must say so without hesitation. This is the indispensable precondition for

building further on the foundations laid by the Helsinki Final Act.

In this way we can bring the communist countries to realize that our concern for human rights is not a diversionary tactic, nor a provocative campaign designed to make life difficult for them. It is an integral part of our foreign policy throughout the world. This is the only possible approach for a Labour Government which is committed to protect abroad the values and ideals of the British people.

Of course, there will always be controversy about the most effective means of registering people's concern about violations of human rights: whether, for instance, it is right for governments to espouse in public the cause of major dissident figures; or whether this is better left to private organizations or to unpublicized contacts between governments. This is something which the Government has to decide for itself.

Vital though it is, the issue of human rights is only one element in the Final Act, only one strand in the complex of East-West relations. The greater human right is after all the right to live, and to live in peace, without fear of nuclear or any other kind of war.

Our job is to reduce and finally remove the threat of war. That is why the strategic arms limitation talks between the Soviet Union and the United States and the negotiations in Vienna on force reductions in central Europe, as well as other arms control negotiations, lie at the core of détente. That is also why we are as firmly committed as ever to détente and the search for a more constructive relationship with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In which both peace and human rights will flourish.

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Ronald Butt

All brothers together at Brighton

The left-right struggle for the future of the Labour Party has been put on ice at Brighton to stay frozen until after the election.

The leaders of the quiescent left have played their appointed roles as safety valves. Mr Foot yesterday used his ritual cadences to channel his own, and the average delegate's, anger at the EEC institutions into support for Mr Callaghan's declaration of commitment to membership by stressing more heavily the prospect of entering the Community from the inside in Britain's interests.

Mr Benn, who said in a London church last June that the Bible was the most influential political text book in Britain, actually went so far as to deliver his speech on Monday in such solemn and liturgical tones as to make his message about socialist structural change seem to be above the battle. Even Mrs Castle, that shrill voice from the previous reign, worked in the good new cause.

With the "legitimate" left in this emboldened frame of mind, even the left legitimate keeping quiet, with the Government's financial policies accepted, the Labour right might be expected to be in triumphant mood, and, indeed, the "legitimate" right do seem quietly satisfied. The most curious aspect of the scene at their end of the Labour spectrum is their apparent lack of a leader.

Now, of course, there is no single leader on the left, and which has gone in for collective leadership since Benn. On the right, however, there has been a curious urge for commitment to a leader since Gaiskell's death. Mr Roy Jenkins had that role. But who is the leader of the right now?

That person is not, I think, to be found at the Fabian tea party, or featured in Labour Victory, the broadsheet of the Campaign for Labour Victory (the right's "fightback" organization against the inroads of the left). The leader of the right is not Mr William Rogers, Mr Roy Hattersley, Mrs Shirley Williams, Dr Dickson Mabon or even Dr David Owen.

In practice, it is none other than the Prime Minister himself, who is playing a part that is something quite new in Labour politics.

Somewhere, Mr Callaghan has the trick of managing the party from the right—by which I mean laying down straight-forward traditionalist mixed-society policies of the kind that appeal to Labour voters and rural Labour activists—but doing it without upsetting the left. He even knows how to praise the police and win some applause for it, which is quite something at a Labour conference.

Of course, he could not have done it but for the determination of the left not to rock the boat before the election in the belief that, whether Labour wins or loses the left will be dominant thereafter.

However, whatever the motive, peace reigns now, and the question is whether the left is justified in its optimism for the future. On the right, there are some who deny that the left wing will manage to take over if Labour goes into opposition. They say that if Labour loses, that could be the opportunity for the moderates once and for all to settle the balance of the Labour Party's power.

For one thing, according to

the private session today discusses the proposal to oblige all MPs to be re-elected regularly. It is likely to be referred to next year's conference. The unions will not welcome the danger to their sliding scale, the left fears the over-enthusiasm of their own fringe extremists.

Labour candidates told Mr Benn at a meeting on Monday that they did not think much of working hard to get to Westminster only to be quickly disowned by a caucus that changed its mind.

The problem arises from painfully small constituency parties. Primary election of candidates by all Labour Party members in a constituency would produce both more representative MPs and a bigger membership which would join to vote. But somehow, I do not see many signs that Labour activists would go quite this far in trusting Labour voters.

These things, those moderates who are at present imprisoned by the stifling codes of office, and who now lack time, energy and freedom to wage the battle for social democracy, will then be free to do so. But where is the money to come from? What organization will the right have with which to counter the hold of the left on the organization of the Labour Party?

Do the right really have the stomach for the task that could drive them out of the party so long as they seem to have the option of trying to control it from the inside? Who would lead them in opposition? Nor did not want an expedition done his bit if Labour loses.

Not for 20 years has a Labour conference been so free from drama. The atmosphere of this huge antiseptic hall, which makes the conference look like life seen through the wrong end of a telescope—distant, unreal—so curiously appropriate to the mood. Yet I suspect that there is more tension than ever waiting to burst out when the

electorate have made their decision.

What Labour will be like after the election is a subject on which speculation is not much encouraged. But it is the point on which the public will eventually have to make up its mind.

On Monday, I did go to the Fabian tea to hear Mrs Williams, who has often been tipped as Mr Roy Jenkins's successor in the leadership of the right. Her subject was "Towards the Eighties", and quite naturally the manner and matter of what she said was the sweetest of reason.

She declared that politics was a matter of spirit, rather than of technique; that there can be no socialist societies with much state control (for instance, France) and socialist states with quite a lot of liberty (Poland). She thought the job of social democracy was to achieve the highest degree of personal liberty with the greatest concentration of power for common ends. The main problem ahead was the "diffusion of power". Public ownership of industry was important because it "opens the door to something different". It was not the end of the road.

As for diffusing power, it might be done by tenants' housing associations, for instance, or by "de-bureaucratization" (her word) and involving parents in education. Tory choice was minority group choice. I hope all that is a fair paraphrase.

Some questions struck me. Mrs Williams thinks we should look again at the way in which we come to deal with the design of homes, to avoid such mistakes as high rise flats.

But how do you de-bureaucratize without more bureaucracy to do it? How do you get more involvement without still more "organization"? How, precisely, do you get a greater human element in the design of our major social projects? And what is the difference between her notion of "diffusing power" and that of Mr Benn and Mr Brian

Sedgemoor, who, on the left, favour exactly the same phrase?

Can there be any real "choice", except for those who can put their friends in their pockets and pay for something except by enabling more people to do just that?

Mrs Williams is so utterly reasonable, and her political construction sounds plausible until you begin to ask questions. Labour, she said, ought to think again about the small firm—in the public sector, as well. "I don't care a damn if it's in the public or private sector."

What an admirable sentiment! Yet how can you have a small firm (in any ordinary sense of the expression) in the public sector, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the National Enterprise Board and the public purse are all there to prop it up? I only ask.

As it happened, I was standing next to somebody from the Social Democratic Alliance, who told me afterwards that he wanted to ask Mrs Williams, how she would advise a good social democrat to respond to the presence of the western European communist leaders invited to Brighton for the first time this year by the NEC.

The answer would have been interesting. The communist observers have been quite in evidence being interviewed in the press lounge. Mr Mitterand, the French social democrat, is due to arrive tomorrow. He will be bringing something interesting to say about Eurocommunism and his present problems with it, which may be of some interest to the National Executive Committee.

His plane gets here on time. One person who will not be flying in I gather is Sir Harold Wilson. His absence in invisible entourage would have followed the former leader as he walked the platform of this calm and placid conference, from which, it seems, all passion has gone underground.

If I were the Pope

by Malcolm Muggeridge



If I were to find myself Pope (an improbable eventuality, since I recently celebrated my fiftieth marriage anniversary, and am not a Roman Catholic), the first thing I should do would be to go into retreat in the nearest thing to a wilderness to be found in the Vatican precincts. This would probably turn out to be Castel Gandolfo, the summer residence.

In retreat I should meditate upon the Church's extraordinary survival through the 20 centuries of Christendom despite every sort of abomination committed by, or under the auspices of, my predecessors, taking due account of Hilaire Belloc's piquant observation that the Church must enjoy God's special protection since otherwise, in view of the manner in which, and by whom, its affairs have been conducted, it would long ago have foundered and disappeared from history.

I should also meditate upon the Church's present circumstances, so full of confusion, strife and lunacy following Pope John's Vatican Council which has resulted in a decision resulting therefrom to have another Reformation, just when the former one—Luther's—seemed finally to have run into the sand.

I should hope to have Mass said and some of her Sisters of Charity with me at my retreat, her cooperation having been a precondition of my accepting the pontifical appointment in the first place. It is not her style to proffer advice, but I should find her presence most reassuring, and try to persuade her to take over part of the Vatican for one of her Houses.

Her extraordinary influence and clarification are conveyed, not so much by words of exhortation, as by the love she radiates, shining out from her visibly, like light.

Also, I should look to the Sisters to take care of my domestic arrangements, thereby ensuring that, in accordance with the rigorously followed rule of their Order, my way of life would be abstemious, though not, I fear, like theirs. This, however, would not involve stripping the Vatican and St Peter's of their embellishments, which belong to the Church's splendid artistic heritage, and give delight to many. Indeed, I should set my face very resolutely against suggestions of this kind.

After all, it was the money-changers, not the ornaments, that Jesus drove out of the Temple, and the rich young man was instructed to get rid of his own private possessions and give the proceeds to the poor, not to take it upon himself to dispose of public treasures.

When Mother Teresa opens a new House, the room chosen to be the chapel alone has any fine furnishings that may be available; it is, she insists, for the Lord, and so deserves whatever may be available to glorify it. Let it never be forgotten that it was Judas who

raised an objection when expensive ointment was poured over Jesus's head—a point I might well make and expound in one of my addresses, if not in an encyclical (*Ut Quid Perdisco Haec*).

My first venture when I returned from the wilderness would be to re-issue *Humanae Vitae* in a greatly simplified form reinforcing its essential point that any form of artificial contraception is inimical to the Christian life.

Admittedly, I should go on to explain, this prohibition had proved too severe for many perhaps more. Roman Catholics, as had the Church's earlier prohibition of usury, but it remained abundantly clear that the divorce of sex from procreation, and its condition, which is leading love, consequent upon the practice of artificial contraception, was proving increasingly disastrous to marriage and the family.

I should ask those Catholics and there were more than might be supposed—who have had the spiritual insight and resolution to abide by *Humanae Vitae*, to manifest their ardour, in the manner of a special badge, like motorists who have passed an advanced driving test.

Next, I should suspend the prohibition of the Triduum Mass and the traditional Latin liturgy, which would therefore be permissible whenever and wherever there was an appreciable demand for it. The disco-style vernacular worship with its sassy banal words which has come to take its place, would be allowed to go on, but I should secretly hope that, as fashions changed, it might wither away.

In any case, I should leave it to my successors, after an appropriate experimental period, to take decisions on a regulation form of worship for all Catholic churches. I might well, however, put out an encyclical (*Venite Adoremus*) on the subject of worship, pointing out that several requirements for the form used are that, in an ever-changing world, it should convey a sense of permanence, and in a world largely given over to the transient pursuits of this age, it should be the seemingly overwhelming strength of nuclear weaponry is exposed as capable only of destruction, when the abundance of wealth of an ever-expanding economy turns out to be only a mirage, and the offerings of ever more vicious and portentous media, so much fantasy—then my Catholics, I should hope, would stand ready to give back to a spiritually impoverished and materially overburdened world the inexhaustible riches of Christ.

That would be a Papacy indeed! Perhaps—who can tell?—some unexpected papal decree, arriving as they must, to be utterly fraudulent when the seemingly overwhelming strength of nuclear weaponry is exposed as capable only of destruction, when the abundance of wealth of an ever-expanding economy turns out to be only a mirage, and the offerings of ever more vicious and portentous media, so much fantasy—then my Catholics, I should hope, would stand ready to give back to a spiritually impoverished and materially overburdened world the inexhaustible riches of Christ.

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the offenders out of the Church.

Or could I? On consideration, any such attempted exorcism might well backfire: rudeness would dictate treading very warily when it came to using papal authority to restore discipline among recalcitrant clergy and religious.

To begin with at any rate, I should have to consult myself with using new appointments for corrective purposes. For instance, I might consider making Mr. Lefebvre my Nuncio in Poland, and Fr. Hans Kung my observer at the World Council of Churches on the understanding that when the proceedings began to prove unendurable—which might happen quite soon—he would be transferred to Cuba as my Apostolic Delegate there.

As, in the nature of the case, I could only expect to occupy the position of Pope for a short period—a year or so at most—I should concentrate all my attention and effort on one single enterprise.

This would be, very discreetly, and even secretly, to prepare the way for an underground Church to go on functioning when the open one has been either forcibly disbanded, or so corrupted and disorientated from within that it can no longer fulfil its traditional role, as laid down in the Gospels and expounded in the Pauline Epistles, of keeping the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, in the world.

What I should have in mind would be a Christian *maquis* or clandestine *Catacombs* Order, whose superior and members would be chosen with the utmost care for their abiding faith, mystical insight and loyalty to the Church and its orthodoxy.

What I should hope to find would be some twentieth century Loyola, with the luminous mind of a John Henry Newman, the courage of a Cardinal Mindszenty and the charity of a Mother Teresa. Such a man would gather round him the requisite helpers, and be ready, come what might, to keep alive the Christian faith through another Dark Age.

When the extravagant hopes, placed in a kingdom-of-heavens-as-it-comes-on-earth way, to be utterly fraudulent when the seemingly overwhelming strength of nuclear weaponry is exposed as capable only of destruction, when the abundance of wealth of an ever-expanding economy turns out to be only a mirage, and the offerings of ever more vicious and portentous media, so much fantasy—then my Catholics, I should hope, would stand ready to give back to a spiritually impoverished and materially overburdened world the inexhaustible riches of Christ.

That would be a Papacy indeed! Perhaps—who can tell?—some unexpected papal decree, arriving as they must, to be utterly fraudulent when the seemingly overwhelming strength of nuclear weaponry is exposed as capable only of destruction, when the abundance of wealth of an ever-expanding economy turns out to be only a mirage, and the offerings of ever more vicious and portentous media, so much fantasy—then my Catholics, I should hope, would stand ready to give back to a spiritually impoverished and materially overburdened world the inexhaustible riches of Christ.

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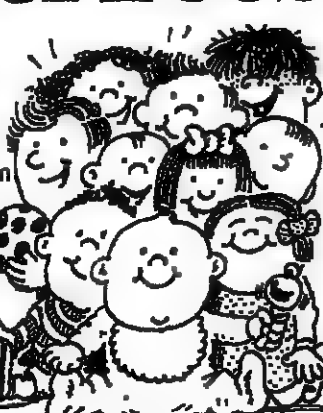
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A Day at the Races, or why the Brighton session was secret

As the Labour Party did not want me to report its "secret session" I had to slip in from a Lancashire delegate for the third race at Brighton. I took myself off to the Kempton racetrack on top of the Downs.

It is now possible to tell you why journalists were banned from the conference hall for that private business session; Joan Lester, the chair person, did not want an expectant world to know that most of the delegates were at the races.

Indeed, the first three people I saw as I approached the paddock bar were a Government minister, the leader of a very militant union and a Conservative whip. "Just look at those fellows," the Tory said, though I was uncertain whether he referred to the horse, Wanlockhead or his delectable rider, Brooke Sanders.

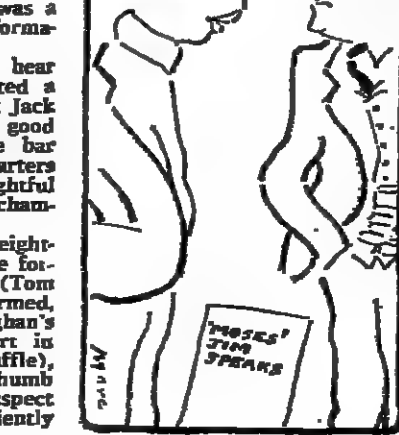
A transport of delight

I was amused to observe stuck to the windscreen of a French-registered car at Brighton, a notice to gladden the hearts of all Labour anti-Marketers and indeed those who oppose monetarism. It said: "Mettez moi au travail."

I was amused, too, to note a rebellious complaint in the news service that is offered to conference delegates free of charge. It concerned parking problems. "Double yellow lines mean

Bedtime story

Richard Hoggart had a nice story for delegates at the Library Association's centenary conference in London yesterday. When he was with Unesco, someone said a motto was needed for International Population Year. They got round a table and someone realized it was International Book Year as well. A witty Mexican suggested the joint motto: "When you're in bed, read a book instead."



Dizzy heights of poetry

Sweetness and light have reigned over the Poetry Society for the past three years. Sweetness and light have reigned over the Poetry Society for the past three years. Sweetness and light have reigned over the Poetry Society for the past three years.

The unwieldy General Council, which was a feared source for the clash of symbols, has been reduced to 21. And moderate Mrs Paddy Kitchen, the novelist, has been elected Chairperson. She said yesterday that she wanted the society to be a lake in which elephants of every poetic euphemism could swim and lambs could paddle.

The Society will hold a series of benefit evenings at which poets, novelists, actors, and painters will perform without fee to raise money to redecorate the building.

The society has just acquired the freehold of its large house in Ebury Court. Next weekend, a stanza of poets will read the floor of the big Events Room, while Paddy Kitchen and Maureen Duffy paint the top flat where the offices are moving. Professionals are being called in for the high ceilings: apparently poets suffer from vertigo more than the rest of us.

The Anglo American Corporation is advertising for a boring engineer to work in South Africa. A shame it was not a boring journalist. I could have submitted a few names.

Fishermen's tales—but all true

Sally Festing knows how to talk to fishermen and I do not. I realized my deficiency the other week when I asked a raw-fished Scot who had just put him in the harbour at St Abbs whether he had had a good night's haul of the local produce, mackerel and her sisters.

He spat into the sea, said there were no mackerel in those waters and that, anyhow, he had not been fishing, only helping to repair a friend's boat. I suppose I should have noticed that ice powder spurt, the bold was bare.

Mrs Festing would not have made silly mistakes like that. She has known, and clearly

loved, fisherfolk for 29 years, especially that resilient race that extracts its living from the sea off the north Norfolk coast. She has approached them with tact and understanding, and in her intelligent, poetic and journalistic head, a sound knowledge of the offshore fishermen's bustling yesterday and precarious today.

It is, however, mainly because of the doubtful tomorrow that her book *Fishermen* (David and Charles, £3.95) can take its place with Coleridge's *Rural Riders* as a chronicle of how Man and Nature coalesced in one particular place at one particular time.

Flashback

I would not be surprised if Yevgeny Svetlovsky, in his London hotel room this morning, had his fingers crossed while scrutinizing the headlines. Mr Svetlovsky conducted the Philharmonia in a concert at the Royal Festival Hall tonight. You might remember how unfortunately timed was his Albert Hall concert with his regular orchestra, the USSR State Symphony, in 1968. It was just after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The players took the stage, and Mr Svetlovsky mounted the rostrum, to shouts of "Freedom for Czechoslovakia" and "Hands off the Czechs." And the row went on for several minutes before the non-political nature of the evening was allowed to take over.

For any male reader of this diary who laments that no longer does he alone wear the trousers in his castle, I have more gloomy news. His tie prerogative may be the next to go. Paris fashion houses report that more women are wearing ties because the "moose open-neck look" is becoming a fad. I applaud Graham Lark, chairman of the British Tie Manufacturers Association, for reacting thus: "Maybe this is just a male chauvinistic attitude and totally unbusinesslike, but I wish women would leave this last and sacred wardrobe emblem of manhood alone." But then he goes and spoils it with this hint of capitulation: "I accept that if the trend really develops and we increase sales, we will be mollified in due course."



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UPHILL TO DISARMAMENT

President Carter's desire for a better world is sincere and commendable and shared by all sane people. It is doubtless as frustrating for him as for others to find the world clinging to habits which cause vast amounts of unnecessary suffering and which could bring it to nuclear disaster. The frustration is all the greater because the broad outlines are as obvious as the failure to adopt them. The great powers should reduce their nuclear arsenals, curb the more dangerous and absurd aspects of their competition and spend more time and money on improving life for themselves and others.

The trouble is that human behaviour has changed little while the penalties for its failures have vastly increased. On the other hand the potential for improvement should also have increased. The vast opening up of global communications and the growing awareness of living in a global community, as well as the fear of nuclear war, should help concentrate men's minds.

Mr Carter's speech to the United Nations was a useful contribution. It contained nothing very new but it was a declaration of intent and a stimulus to endeavour. It was an attempt to raise people's eyes beyond the limits of what seems immediately possible in negotiation. It was a reminder of the enormous waste involved in the world's military expenditure, which he now puts at about three hundred billion dollars a year. "Last year," he said in a passage which ought to fill every human being with shame, "the nations of the world spent more than sixty times as much equipping each soldier as we did educating each child. The industrialized nations spend the most money but the rate of growth in military spending is 'faster in the developing world'."

When it comes to doing something about this gap between the desirable and the feasible yawning depressingly wide. Perhaps there is room for the occasional publicity gesture. Mr Carter's promise not to use nuclear weapons except in response to an attack, whether nuclear or conventional, merely confirms what has long been a basic assumption of American policy. It is not new, except perhaps in its phrasing.

AT THE CENTRE OF GOVERNMENT

It has been the custom of constitutional theorists to depict the United Kingdom as one of the most over-centralized nations in the developed world. Yet it is a paradox of Whitehall itself that its own centre does not hold. There is no single central department of state to dominate all others. Power is dispersed between the Treasury, the Cabinet Office, the Civil Service Department and, to an extent that is not generally realized, the Prime Minister's private office and Policy Unit in No 10 Downing Street. When reform is in the air, as it is at present with a Prime Minister dissatisfied with the service he receives from his bureaucracy, an expenditure committee report urging specific changes and a new Head of the Home Civil Service to be appointed, the blurred and overlapping responsibilities of the central departments are especially messy. The possible reconstructions seem rather untidy also, unless Mr Callaghan, against all indications, rejects the Cabinet Office as a fully fledged Prime Minister's Department, establishing its primacy once and for all.

Over the past seven years the drift towards such a body has proceeded piecemeal. The foundation of the Central Policy Review Staff in 1970, the growth in the influence of the Prime Minister's private office under Mr Robert Armstrong between 1970 and 1975, the creation of a Policy Unit in No 10 under Dr Bernard Donoghue in 1976 have marked the stages of development. Above all, the increased

might of the Cabinet Office, especially in economic affairs, under the stewardship of Sir John Hunt has tilted the balance of power in Whitehall. Should Mrs Thatcher after a Conservative victory at the polls install a minister alongside her as a chief-of-staff, another significant landmark will have been passed on the road to a Prime Minister's Department.

In the meantime the abolition of the Civil Service Department is due and a reconstitution of its powers in other ways and other places. First, responsibility for manpower and Civil Service pay should be joined with its natural twin, the control of public expenditure, in the Treasury. This would not be the regressive step that is often alleged. In pre-Fulton days, the pay and management side of the Treasury was virtually separate from all else in Treasury Chambers. The proper union would be a sensible step in the welcome climate of efficiency and economy reflected in the recent report of the Expenditure Committee.

Shorn of responsibility for manpower the Civil Service Department would lose its title to separate existence. Its remaining responsibilities for recruitment, promotions, honours, patronage and dealings with the unions on conditions of service and professional ethics could pass to a new foundation—a Public Service Commission. The Head of the Home Civil Service would preside at the new body. He would be answerable to the Prime

Minister but, as professional head, he should speak publicly and widely about the Civil Service before select committees and through an annual report. His commission could be made accountable to the wider public, as well as to Parliament through the person of the Prime Minister, by the appointment of outsiders to its membership.

A Public Service Commission would provide a base from which to launch the reform of Whitehall. A determined insider using the external stimulus of the Expenditure Committee report could succeed where other attempts, notably in the wake of Fulton, have failed to achieve necessary and lasting change. He would however lack two of the chief sources of authority in Whitehall, a department of state at his back and responsibility for a large block of public expenditure. The lack could be made good only by the conspicuous and sustained backing of the Prime Minister.

Once its reforming brief was exhausted, much of the commission's *raison d'être* would be lost. It would be a child of its time, as the Civil Service Department was the progeny of Fulton. A Prime Minister's Department would seem a more permanent settlement of the problem of the central departments, but the innovation would provoke resistance and objections of its own. If he does nothing else at this stage, Mr Callaghan must make the headship of the Civil Service, whatever the body to which it is attached, a job worthy of a Whitehall heavyweight.

Parliamentary candidates

From Mr Michael Stead
Sir, I share the concern expressed by Mr Fred Craig and by your leading article (September 22), about the increasing number of parliamentary candidates. The average number of candidates at by-elections during this year has been seven, and if that goes on we could see the number of general election candidates doubling.

It is not that one wishes to be a spoilsport. The ingenuity with which new party labels are invented, and the competition for bottom place between a quartet of candidates who get less than 1 per cent between them adds to the fun of elections.

But as candidatures multiply, it will become increasingly difficult for the broadcasting authorities to give fair and adequate coverage to each serious candidate; it is then the voters who are the losers. Furthermore, if we are ever to implement any element of the Houghton Committee's recommendation in favour of financing parties, the most useful way would be to assist serious candidates to communicate with their electors (through some reimbursement of printing costs, for instance) rather than by subsidizing party bureaucracies. That is impossible if candidates can appear as easily as they do now.

The question is urgent insofar as

the entry system for European elections must be defined by parliament in the coming session. There it is the more important that candidates, fighting over larger areas, are given full access to regional television and local radio; whilst the privilege of a free distribution of the election address (worth £4,500 in the average parliamentary constituency at present postal rates) will become much more worth buying.

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But if instead of going back to what we did in 1918 (trying to bring it into line with inflation, we looked at some of our democratic neighbours, we could find a better way. Most European countries with

weapons such as the cruise missile cut right across existing divisions between strategic and tactical weapons. Both main sets of arms negotiations are taking place in wholly meaningless categories. The Salt Agreement is confined to weapons which are no longer as significant as they were, while the Vienna talks on nuclear reductions in Europe are confined to a geographical area which is meaningless in military terms. Meanwhile Mr Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary, has now confirmed that the Russians have a capacity for destroying satellites which is not yet available to the United States. The race goes on.

It would thus be wrong to pin too many hopes on technical agreements on arms control. They can help limit the scope of the arms race, put curbs on certain weapons, and serve as a point of contact for negotiation, mutual education and the exchange of information, but they cannot by themselves stop the arms race as a whole or contribute more than marginally to world security. That requires treating the political distrust and rivalry which keep the arms race going.

Mr Carter called for a code of conduct and mutual restraint, but the Soviet Union shows no signs of renouncing its commitment to support "wars of liberation" and it is still very reluctant to take its proper place in the world among the richer industrial nations. It still insists on being a pseudo-revolutionary false friend of the poor in opposition to the allegedly exploitative capitalists. As long as this attitude prevails—and it could be only tacitly abandoned without a major ideological somersault—the scope for East-West cooperation in the third world must be limited. The best hope must be that Andrew Young is right in believing that whatever Marxist noises are made by the newly emerged states they will soon find they need American technology and that Russia's non-military aid is poor and diminishing. The Russians and the rest of the world should realize, however, that the offer of cooperation which Mr Carter is extending is real and that to reject it does no service to mankind.

Direct grant schools

From the Headmaster of Plymouth College
Sir, The proposal to restore the direct grant is, of course, a matter for the Government. The Headmaster of Bristol Cathedral School suggests, but it is also a moment for cautious appraisal as the restoration, should it come about, will be no more secure than the wish of the majority party in Parliament. Those concerned three years ago with advising governors to take the path back to full independence must surely remember the difficulties of decisions then. Is there any guarantee that direct grant status will not become another unstable political tennis ball with agonizing decisions every few years?

Yours faithfully,
RONALD MERRETT, Headmaster, Plymouth College, Ford Park, Plymouth, Devon, September 29.

Plea bargaining

From Mr Alan de Piro, QC
Sir, There is much misunderstanding about so-called plea bargaining. The fact that, after his counsel sees the judge in private, a defendant charges a plea of not guilty to one of guilty does not mean, does not even suggest, that there has been any plea bargaining.

If the judge is willing, and most experienced and assured judges are, defence counsel (accompanied, of course, by prosecution counsel, and by their respective solicitors if they wish) may see the judge to ascertain, often by way of confirmation of his own opinion, what sort of sentence the defendant will or will not, receive on conviction either by the jury or on his own plea of guilty.

If, as in case after case, the defendant's only concern is to avoid imprisonment, an intimation to him that he will not receive an immediate discharge on his plea of not guilty is often quite sufficient to enable him to accept the truth (of his guilt) and face reality. This will also assist counsel to put forward the best possible mitigation on behalf of the defendant.

There is no secrecy about this. Nothing takes place which cannot be repeated to the defendant. There has been no plea bargaining. But there has been sensible and effective communication between the court and the parties and the avoidance of possible misunderstanding. This is well understood by practitioners, approved by the Court of Appeal and is to be commended.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN DE PIRO, 4 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4, October 2.

Building ships for Poland

From Mr David H. Gault
Sir, New bulkcarriers for Poland. Everyone in the shipping industry regards the Government's decision as a most difficult problem in formulating a policy for shipbuilding and in attracting work to the yards in these hard times for shipping. These difficulties do not, however, excuse the disregard shown to the future of our own sailors' employment and of our shipowning companies by the Government's policy of credit transfer of orders from a Communist country for bulkcarriers of a type already heavily oversubscribed in the present shipping slump.

Experience has shown that in the shipping trade in which Communist countries are operating, their vessels are not operated in accordance with normal economic criteria. How can they be when the East does not operate a market economy?

It is freely acknowledged that the Norwegian, Swedish and German Governments had the foresight to turn down these orders on principle, in spite of the fact that they have their own equally intractable problems of empty shipyards.

What better example could one have of capitalism and the West hell bent on self destruction, when for the sake of a few months' work in the yards our leaders will apparently happily prejudice the future of one of our efficient and foreign exchange effective industries, is a shipyard worker's vote, more precious than a seaman's vote?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. GAULT, Chairman, Gallic Shipping Limited, Blomfield House, 85 London Wall, EC2, October 4.

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The government of Ulster

From Mr David Morrison

Sir, Your editorial of September 28 on Ulster makes a virtue of the consistent ambiguity of the British Government's criteria for the re-establishment of provincial institutions in Ulster. I can see no virtue whatsoever in such ambiguity and it is more than possible that the gains of the last year will be lost if the ambiguity is not dispensed.

A year or so ago there was ambiguity about whether "British withdrawal" and the setting up of an independent Ulster was in the offing, and it was not unreasonable for the Provisionals to believe that their primary objective was in sight. It has been the dissipation of this ambiguity since Roy Mason came to Ulster (rather than any specific security measures as you imply) which is responsible for the fact that Provisional terrorism is now on the wane and Loyalist counter-terrorism has vanished.

But if this improvement is to be maintained we must move on to establish permanent institutions for governing Ulster. And if that is to be done it is essential that the British Government specify precisely what institutions are acceptable and what are not. I see no point in dropping the words "power-sharing" and replacing them by another vague formulation about institutions having to be "acceptable to both communities" (as you suggest) and as the joint statement after the Lynch/Callaghan talks appeared to do particularly since Jack Lynch and the SDLP assume that "power-sharing" is still the aim.

There are essentially two ways of providing for the government of Ulster: either a regional authority can be established to handle those local government matters reserved to the Stormont Parliament by the Macarty reforms of 1970, or else a parliament which doubles as a regional authority can be established. In my opinion there will be no political progress towards the establishment of either of these unless the British Government gives precise answers to the following questions:

(1) Is a power-sharing constitution providing seats in Cabinet as of right for any party who wants them and in particular for the SDLP a necessary condition for the establishment of an Ulster Parliament?

(2) If not, what is wrong with the Convention Report? To say that it hasn't got sufficiently widespread support is not an answer since the majority rule constitution contained in it is the only alternative to a power-sharing constitution which has certainly got less support and is patently unworkable.

(3) If a majority rule constitution is unacceptable to the British Government and a power-sharing constitution is unworkable, what is the point in maintaining the pretence that the reestablishment of an Ulster Parliament is the aim of government policy?

(4) The alternative is to establish a regional authority. Has the British Government any objection in principle to the establishment of a regional authority with the normal local authority structure (i.e. all the members of it forming the executive plus a number of councillors elected by majority vote)?

(5) Does the opposition of the SDLP to the establishment of a regional authority render it unacceptable to "both sides of the community" and therefore unacceptable to the British Government?

If these questions were answered and the British Government was unambiguously opened up, we could have a proper debate about how Ulster is to be governed, instead of floundering around in a morass of verbal ambiguity.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID MORRISON, Belfast 15, October 4.

From Mr Cedric Thornberry
Sir, In defending the right of northern Protestants to re-unification with the Republic, Dr O'Brien takes an apparently correct and principled position. The

University finance

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham
Sir, Among the quotations which Sue Reid gave (September 30) from the recent report of the Public Accounts Committee one which will be read with astonishment in university circles and surprise in others: "It seems to us that, in the country's present financial circumstances, grants which have enabled the universities to maintain their expenditure per student at about the 1971-72 level in real terms, cannot be regarded as having imposed an unfair burden on the university sector."

The annual survey of the University Grants Committee published last March refers to "the severe decline in the value of income per student... which amounts to some 10 per cent over the quinquennium", and gives the decline in the value of recurrent grant and fee income alone as 6 per cent. It draws attention to the fact that the necessary economies have fallen with special severity on some essential activities.

For some time now, many universities have been obliged to freeze a number of the posts which have fallen vacant, to cut grants to libraries and departments, and to impose other substantial savings. They are quite prepared, I am sure, to make their contributions to solving the country's financial problems, and certainly do not expect to be singled out for special praise for doing so. However, to suggest that the funding of universities has not deteriorated significantly since 1971-72 is incorrect.

Moreover, it does less than justice to academic staff who labour under a salary "anomaly", acknowledged by the Secretary of State and her predecessor, and who have nevertheless made tremendous efforts to maintain the high standards of our universities and ensure that those in school and enjoy the same opportunities of benefiting from a university education.

majority do so, I think, because of fear of domination in a state which they believe to be unduly influenced by Catholic clericalism and in which they suspect that their individualist ethos may be deliberately submerged by a different religious tradition. Thus, the ferocious barricades mentally.

But he is, I think, deeply and dangerously wrong to extrapolate from such mistrust an infinitely intransigent "Two Nations" thesis. Having myself been brought up in the Northern Protestant tradition, I was and am that the "loyalist" of most of my fellow Ulstermen is an essentially negative posture. It is an expression of our fear of engulfment, rather than evidence of our profound attachment to you, Sir, and your fellow countrymen.

Indeed, we may be imbued with an even more sceptical attitude towards the British (and especially the English) than are many southern Catholics. Consequently, many of us with our heterogeneous roots, suffer a thoroughly confused sense of national identity, which confusion is one of the prime causes of Ireland's misapprehensions and times. Yet a certain clarification has come in recent years from our closer association with you. The process has been aided by our realization that the British do not in fact feel that we are their people, and by a greater knowledge of the actuality of the present Republic (about which there has been much northern mythology). It is the view of many of us (of all persuasions) that such a trend has been impeded by the belief that the IRA is trying to coerce us into unity.

Dr O'Brien, too, regards this gradual process of crystallization, the more than dawning awareness that Irishmen, north and south, Catholic and Protestant, are rather less different than any of us used to the British. But this is only part of the reason for the degree of anger felt in Ireland with him.

His thesis is the more dangerous because of its superficial plausibility, appealing to people like Mr Levin, and to those who desire peace in Ireland, however brief and brittle, at almost any cost, despite, in essence, the most conservative and shallow of Irish values it came to be applied by Dr O'Brien and others of his ministerial colleagues with a zealous intolerance quite as uncompromising as the attitudes which he principally castigates (as Mr Arden [September 17] memorably pointed out).

In June, the blessedly perspicacious electorate of Clonsilla granted him fresh vistas of free time. Dismissing their courteous implication, he has continued to preach hellfire and eternal damnation. May one suggest more constructive outlets for his talented energy? He could help to create the sense of reconciliation between different kinds of Irishmen proclaimed by the new Prime Minister, Archbishop O'Flaherty. He could encourage us to be good and to accept the great richness of our heritage, yet essentially unified Irish culture. A professing liberal, he could help to create a climate, and structure, within which the diversity of Irishmen can readily be accommodated; whether within a federalist or unitary land, or in a state in which respect for human rights for all, regardless of opinion, would be the principal cornerstone. We Irish are a forgiving people (as all the world knows): in these virtuous penances sackcloth and ashes might be optional.

It seems increasingly clear that there will be no going back in the north. I cannot see how there can now be any lasting peace in Ireland until a *modus vivendi* is achieved by consensual means for all the people of our nation. However the prospect may appeal to some in the south, sooner or later the state of Ireland must fully encompass a blunt, truculent, northern awkward squad, a million strong. Paradoxically, we may prove better equipped for the experience than southern conservatives like Dr O'Brien. Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC THORNBERRY, Clonsilla, Temple, EC4, October 4.

Our universities compare very favourably with those elsewhere and have a major rôle to play in this country's future. Let us hope, therefore, that the decline in their resources can now be halted and, indeed, reversed before any irreparable damage is done. Yours faithfully,
B. C. L. WEEHON, University Park, Nottingham, October 3.

Invitation to Mr Begin

From Sir John Barnes
Sir, In his letter to you published today, Mr Christopher Mayhew criticizes the British Government for inviting the Prime Minister of Israel to visit this country.

Would Mr Mayhew object similarly to a visit to the State of Kenya? Did he object to the presence of Archbishop Makarios at meetings of Commonwealth Prime Ministers? This is not to suggest that they are directly comparable. But like them, Mr Begin is the democratically elected leader of his country, with which we maintain diplomatic relations. There is no reason to regard an invitation to him as an expression of opinion, one way or the other, on his earlier actions or attitudes. For the British Government to deal with the opposition in Israel behind the back of its government, as Mr Mayhew seems to be suggesting, would be an unjustifiable interference in the internal politics of that country, where I served as Ambassador from 1969 to 1972. I hope that a visit here by the Prime Minister of Israel will indeed help to contribute to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, and I feel sure that this is also the hope of the British Government.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BARNES, Hampden Lodge, Hursley Park, Sussex, October 3.

Marxist concepts in education

From Miss Valerie Pitt

Sir, Professor Gould's methods of protecting us from ourselves are, I think, more worrying than you, or your distinguished correspondents, may realise. He names names: identifying by the company they keep or the papers they give the dangerous academics—Marxists or Liberal Quiltings or whatever. His "blacklist" seems, however, to be compiled without rhyme or reason. A young colleague of mine, for instance, finds himself on it, quite gratuitously since, as far as we know, Professor Gould has no direct knowledge of him or his work (which, not in sociology) and certainly not contact with the work of this School. Moreover, my colleague is not, by the stretch of anyone's imagination, a Marxist. Professor Gould's "identifications" may, for all I know, be equally random.

The evil here is not simply the injustice to an individual. It is also a subtle corruption that I am obliged to defend my colleague by saying he is "not a Marxist" as though, in the roaring days of Titus Oates, I might have said he was "not a Catholic". The word is used (as Gould perhaps intends) not as a description but as an accusation.

And where does that leave us? Marxism is, and we know it is, an important strand in the European intellectual tradition: we can't leave our students whether in the social sciences or the humanities in ignorance, perhaps a prejudiced ignorance, of its concepts and methods. Dr Gould's theory is that we can't do without Marxism. We must keep them in moral and academic quarantine: his practice is to publish their names at a warning to society, the word "Marxist" is herded into them—well, tant pis. I don't find that much of an advertisement for a Liberal Democratic Society. Neither, I suspect, would our students.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE PITT, Head of School of Humanities and Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, Thames Polytechnic, Wellington Street, SE18, October 3.

From Professor T. F. Davaney
Sir, In the debate concerning Marxist teaching in education, I proclaim the self-evident truth that, in a free society all sides have a right to be heard, or that liberal democratic education is no more free from normative presuppositions than Marxist and is therefore just as ideological, or that honest Marxist education can be distinguished from dishonest propaganda, is woefully to miss the point. The real question at issue is that granted these indisputable facts, what *proportional weights* should be given within the public educational system of a liberal society, to teaching based on non-liberal values?

There can be no dodging this issue, for if there is one thing modern philosophy agrees on it is that all education logically implies a moral/political outlook. Two institutions at least in another, but not, say, a religious order, have tried to grapple with this problem of weighing—the BBC and IRA in apportioning air time for political broadcasts. Whether this precise quantitative approach would transfer is debatable, but at least, if we were to do so, we should be hearing a good deal less of Marxism in education than we do at present.

Yours faithfully,
T. F. DAVENEY, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Exeter, Exeter, October 4.

lib-Lab pact 'prize'

From Mr Timothy Reason, MP for Aylesbury (Conservative)
Sir, Does not the speech by Mr Michael Foot quoted in *The Times* today tell us pretty well all we need to know about the lib-Lab pact?

Your report reads: "The pact with the Liberals offered at the price of a full majority at the next election, Mr Foot, Leader of the Opposition, said last night. He also said: 'We should use the time we have made available by it (the pact) in order to prepare for the moment when we can get a full majority'."

We all know what would happen if that time were to come. Socialism, nationalization and the erosion of individual liberty would steam ahead once more, and to the Liberals would be the lion's share of the spoils. The new *lib-Lab* pact is a sideshow to the main event. To change the metaphor, not many people continue to use a crutch once they are able to walk by themselves. Even if the Liberals ever do not know what they are doing, the public does.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY REASON, House of Commons, SW1, October 3.

Not yet hived off

From Mr John Stookley
Sir, Mr Duggan (September 30) refers to a new problem for British beekeepers. The Scots also commonly use British standard combs but in frames with a shorter top bar, accommodated in the Scottish national Smith hive of 1911. This is a problem for the British National hive. The Smith hive is of simpler construction, uses less timber, is cheaper, and stores the same amount of honey. The new *lib-Lab* pact is a sideshow to the main event. To change the metaphor, not many people continue to use a crutch once they are able to walk by themselves. Even if the Liberals ever do not know what they are doing, the public does.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOOKLEY, Chairman, Peeblesshire Beekeepers' Association, P.S. Nevertheless I should be glad to receive my copy of *The Times* faithfully! Drumm, Crairne Lane, Peebles.

THE ARTS

THEATRES

THEATRES

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR
—D. Tol.

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Royal Naval College Chapel

Wednesday 19th October

Wren Orchestra	Beethoven 150th
Conductor:	Commemorative
Howard Snell	Egmont Overture
Soloist	Piano Concerto
Moura Lympny	Symphony No 7

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**PHOENIX
THEATRE**
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Season

Greenwich
1977
Bicentenary
Concert:

A black and white line drawing of a classical building with a portico supported by columns. A large, leafy tree stands to the left of the building. The drawing is positioned in the lower right corner of the advertisement.

Royal Ballet in Teheran this week has been as much to do with flag-waving as with culture. A special supplement in one of the local English-language newspapers, *The British Embassy*, was unconsciously put things in perspective. The big photograph adjoining an article about the Ballet showed not, as might be expected, one of the ballerinas performing the beautiful slow *Rover 3500* waltz, but a photograph of the Tuesday night's opening gala. This was the first event of an ambitious British cultural festival in Iran which is spread over three weeks and seven cities. Concerts, British Players are bringing to the stage, and a series of British films will be shown. Quizzes include the Aeolian Quartet, Heather Harper and no fewer than four military bands. There are exhibitions covering gold, silver and jewelry, both antique and modern, and a display of modern and traditional Iranian architecture, children's books and other subjects. Judging by local comment one of the cultural manifestations

Excitement was muted at the Ballet's opening performance of *La Fille mal gardée* by a notably thought-provoking version of the fussy and circumstance-free ballet. The Iranian Minister, Empress Farah afterwards told the company's director, Peter Wright, that she wished she could attend incognito because audiences seem inhibited in their applause when she is present. At the opening of the gallery, the Rudali Hotel provided a good view of the Imperial box and an unimpaired although somewhat remote view of the stage, so I can vouch for Her Majesty's apparent enjoyment and that it was well merited.

It was the comic dancing that aroused most enthusiasm, especially Ronald Embles' cheerfully irreducible Widow Smozone and Brian Bertscher's puzze Aladin. These two portraits of the country's costume are full of life. The enthusiasm and high standards of the corps de ballet also won a round of applause at an

Man's desire to grasp words and images fresh meaning. Shake the eye, and check the content of things before use, he recommends.

Although he broke with André Breton and his closest disciples in New York in 1949, it is in many ways the last of the surrealists. His old friends Duchamp, Max Ernst, Picabia, Languey, Breton and Combes were all dead. It comes as a surprise to find that André Matta, born 11.11.11, looks almost younger than his years, thick strong, iron-grey hair framing a very alive and humorous face.

Born in Santiago de French and Spanish Basque parents, Jean Chab in 1933, became an architect, and worked in Breton's office in Paris. Meeting Magritte, Picasso and Breton, and reading about surrealism, he was attracted to the movement, and met Breton and joined the group in 1937, but it was his meeting with Duchamp in the following year which seems

essence of its changing nature and, like Blake, convey the two poles of innocence and experience? These in essence seem to be the tasks which Matta sets himself.

"To me the interesting thing is the hidden reality in an object. A spider's web has poeifican in it. An unhappy person: the point is to get to what is behind his unhappiness, not the tears he is crying."

Surrealism for him is not concerned with fantastic jokes about the outside world (*à la Dalí*). It is about shaking and breaking the fake structure of superficial appearances. It does

Shepard and Schuman at Open Space.

Two plays by Americans will be presented at the Open Space as part of its forthcoming season. Sam Shepard's *Suicide in S Flat* presented by the Wakefield Tricycle Company, directed by Ken Chubb, opens



ter television, *Able's Will*, was generously supplied with amusing scenes and dramatic devices—When would the old boy die? Would his favourite daughter arrive on time? How would get the money? Who much would there be? Why had he given up writing? What was he any good in the first place? — but the miserable habits of a writer tolled mockingly throughout. Only two members of Able's living family

The Dragon Variation
Duke of York's

Ned Chaillet

What should a mystery play offer? The notion of simple suspense seems to have been buried with Agatha Christie. Old family secrets and generation-old motivations seem to have disappeared. Money seems to have completely lost its plain attraction. Psychological gamesmanship, a joke to be shared by victims, victimizers and the public, has been the vogue at

played with great feeling. Daniel Mays and Di Trevis, a marvellous actress new to the who had the best-written part in the piece. It would have made a television play by itself but in the end, even though Elizabeth Spriggs and Dominic Guard, as Sarah and the Baron, compelled attention whenever they were on screen, there was too much else, and the handling of the relatives, first assured, became obtrusive

uncle's death. When the gentle Blake died in a car crash he had with him his new girlfriend and his widow seems to know a lot about car maintenance.

Robert Klus as supplied the traditional elements of mystery, but in the present weight he has given greater to the games people are playing. Disguises and privates are his focus, but at least with the disguises, he gives M. Drotire a chance to demonstrate some well-defined characterizations and a dreadful French accent.

able dancers though they are, the company's own equally distinguished dancers are more used to these conditions. But their dancing was smoothly seen off and Gomez roared robustly to the choice of amusing improvisation when the bedroom in which they were revealed together proved to be unlighted.

English followers of the Royal Ballet would have found one unfamiliar performer, namely a tall, named Prince Caspian but known to his friends as Casper.

This handsome creature looked splendid even if his tendency to fall asleep on stage caused his groom some alarm and his other activities contributed, I am told, to the hazards backstage.

But in spite of all the usual and some unusual difficulties attendant upon touring, the show went on and the company did themselves and Britain proud. With another programme and several cost changes will come and their another festival.

In *The Dragon Variation* the first hint of games-playing occurs in the first minute, when Nyree Dawn Porter opens her door to an unknown intruder and begins a coy flirtation. The sinister figure announces that he is neither Mr nor Mrs and that he intends to spend the night with Mrs Blake, the widow of a member of Parliament.

This sinister figure is Roy Dotrice who, and I must give something away, he soon appears as a peevish lord of the manor and not long after as yet another guise. Announcing his roles, however, does not give away the plot, for it must first be sorted out: why he appears in disguise.

The case of suspicion of a murder, of course, and the necessary relentless investigation. The dead MP fortunately left a nephew, a muck-raking journalist who spots a besetler in the circumstances of his

hope of turning his journalism into something worth believing. Apart from a Cockney accent, his main attribute seems to be an ability to remember having seen the actress as a dramatic actor when he was a dramatic critic in Gloucestershire. He recognizes him by the way he holds his back, although a little moustache fools him a little later. Miss Porter is convincingly addled and convincing turo.

Although the last act goes some way to improving the play by bringing the mystifications into the open, the one thing the play never becomes is a thriller. Marc Miller's direction is uninspired, and it would forget that the service entrance seems to be on both sides of the house at times if it had provided one still.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Focus on van Eyck | Choir of St Peter ad

val at Selimkha, the company is in great heart. It is a pleasure and an honour to be with them.

John Percival

Roberto Matta

Roger Berthoud

"Yet if we close our eyes, we have this strange sense of being the first day of creation. Anything could happen, like a screen that anything could be projected on."

It is this sense of hope, of a new beginning, rather than any adherence to Marxism (he favours *eros* rather than *euro-communism*) which has led him to visit Cuba, Angola and his native Chile in Attende's name. As he says, "I know the terrific difference between rich and poor in Chile. The idea that these poor people might have a chance was a grain of sand."

The Chilean *juni* duty

But his central point seems to be the contrast between the potential of men's mind and his social bondage. "If you close your eyes, you manage to see a space, a horizon, a space moving there, you know, a chain of silent explosions like that.... At another pole, you open your eyes and you have a body that doesn't belong to you but to society, which is classified, administered, calculated. As in a beehive, governments want to make us only useful, not loving or creative."

Schumann's Censored Scenes from King Kong, with music from the 1930s film directed by Colin Bucksey, opens in mid-November.

The Shepard play is a British premiere at the Open Space which, several seasons back, presented the first production of the same author's *Tooth of Crime*. The cast includes

land, and Dudley Sutton. *Censored Scenes from King Kong* from the original score, the subject of controversy between the author and the BBC who filmed it two years ago but never transmitted it. The stage version is considerably altered from the original score, but it will contain new songs. The Open Space production of the show is being presented in

pieces by Dunbar, robust and expressive, and the bassoonist pointedly underscored singing of "O sacrum convivium."

Mr Williams included two works written specifically for the occasion. Alan Ridoux's *The Wheel* is a cycle of five anthems on texts as disparate as Cymru, Wales, "Alleluia" and "Astrakhan" by Gerard Manley Hopkins. Perhaps the most striking feature of this pale, decently crafted *Gebruchsmusik* is its accompaniment of oboe and bassoon, inspired by the extraordinary timbral quality of the organ. A modestly dissonant, finely textured setting by Christopher Brown of St. Walter Raleigh's "Even such is mine" had greater substance.

Margaret Phillips was the soloist, as her best. In the engagingly messy *Variation* of Marcel Dupré's *Variation sur un Noël*. The choir of 15, had, I understand, been enlarged for the concert. Mr Williams drew from it a fresh rounded, somewhat metallic sound that filled, and sometimes overfilled, the chapel, with it

freezing threats and radiant recitals of ludicrous miracles. Easy laughs, but what matters is the quality of the laughter. For all the derision of the system, Miss O'Malley never writes out of revenge. And the fact that you can almost feel sympathetic to Pat Heywood's Mother Peter or John Kogan's jack-in-the-box priest only intensifies their stunning power over the girls. Not all of them are individualised; but the class applies with a vengeance to those that are.

Jane Carr, with her prim mouth, can unconsciously swallow such gobs of epigrammatic generalisation of feverish teenage curiosity being firmly set on the wrong track. Outside the convent, Mike Ockrent's production sets the piece beautifully in period with performances like Daniel Gerroli's definitively plumed and bandy-legged teddy boy. A richly

association with Michael White. unusually favourable acoustic

Eric and Tania Heidsieck

New Gallery

Max Harrison

Although it began life as a string quintet and finished as the familiar Piano Quintet Op 34, Brahms never made a secret of his preference for the intermediary two-piano version of this work. Tuesday's performance by Eric and Tania Heidsieck made it easy to understand why even if the bath-room-like acoustics of an almost empty New Gallery distorted the noble sonority that a pair of modern grand's normally produce.

Paradoxically, this monochrome medium emphasizes the textural richness of Brahms's thinking, and the sharper-edged attack of which the piano is capable. The two players are more rhythmically assertive ideas, as in the Scherzo. Here, as elsewhere, Mr and Mrs Heidsieck displayed a secure ensemble and extensive, well-matched techniques. Such qualities are needed in Ravel's *La Valse*, which we heard, of course, in the composer's extraordinary ingenious transcription from the opulent orchestral original.

Despite a brief memory lapse, expertly covered, this apotheosis of the Viennese waltz was delivered with an apt feeling of sensuous euphoria, its crescendos, each greater than the last, finally producing the effect Ravel described as being that of "a fantastic and fatefully inescapable whirlpool".

In between those two assertive masterpieces came Michel Merle's *Music for Two Pianos*, a rather pointlessly noisy piece of style poised uneasily somewhere between the two worlds.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



Bank of England's signals suggest minimum lending rate cut to 5½%

John Whitmore

A cut from 6 per cent to 5½ per cent in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate is a strong probability, according to a leading financial analyst.

The Bank made a move to the discount rate, which is a more significant move, and it is likely that it will wish to moderate the rate in the discount market.

The main reason for the move is the apparently more relaxed attitude of the market. The Bank has been the cause of a number of exchanges over the past few weeks, and it is likely that the move is a signal that the Bank is more relaxed.

The move is also a signal that the Bank is more relaxed in its attitude towards the discount market. The Bank has been the cause of a number of exchanges over the past few weeks, and it is likely that the move is a signal that the Bank is more relaxed.

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Mr. Murray Hofmeyr, Chairman of Cleveland Potash

Setbacks hit Cleveland Potash mine

By Desmond Quigley

Extensive safety requirements have been ordered at the Cleveland Potash mine in Yorkshire after a severe gas blow-out recently in which a miner was killed.

Earlier this year Mr. Murray Hofmeyr, Chairman of Cleveland Potash, stressed the crucial role of the mine.

Gas blow-outs were first encountered in the middle of last year. Since then there have been about five, of which the last was the most serious.

Pressure mounts for Washington action to restrict steel imports

From Frank Vogel, Washington, Oct 5

The Carter Administration is facing mounting pressure to restrict steel imports. But it has so far taken no diplomatic action suggesting that it believes restrictions are necessary, according to informed sources.

American steel importers believe that the EEC and Japan might announce voluntary restrictions on steel shipments to the United States within two weeks. But diplomatic sources suggest that this is most unlikely.

Indeed, these sources note that there is considerable hostility within the Administration toward the domestic steel industry and little willingness to look with sympathy at complaints about foreign manufacturers.

The Administration's hostility, however, has been significantly increased now that Congressmen Charles Vanik, the chairman of the Trade Committee of the House of Representatives, has written to the President calling for restrictions.

He stated in his letter that "the time for maintaining a 'holier than thou' attitude on trade restraints while other governments export their over-capacity in steel to the United States is at an end."

A somewhat blunter attitude was expressed today by Mr. John Connally, the former Secretary of the Treasury, who told reporters that "the Carter Administration is going to have to recognize that Japanese steel is pouring into this country because other countries won't let it in."

President Carter has ordered a special task force to investigate whether the complaints of unfair foreign competition are valid. The task force, which is headed by Mr. Anthony Solomon, the Under Secretary for Monetary Affairs at the Treasury, will probably complete its initial investigation within 10 days.

The Administration's hostility to the steel industry is partly because of the decision by leading manufacturers to raise their domestic selling prices just before President Carter's inauguration. This move infuriated the President, especially as he had called on all companies to show restraint in price increases to keep inflation down.

In addition, numerous top officials believe the level of imports is a result of the continued determination of domestic steel manufacturers to raise their selling prices, despite declining demand. These officials believe the industry is now seeking protection from imports to enable it to raise domestic prices again.

The Congress may strive to promote protectionist legislation of its own on behalf of the steel industry, but it is most unlikely that such legislation could be seriously considered.

Moreover, many of the Congressmen who now support trade restrictions on steel imports also strongly support progress in the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks and they admit that protectionist legislation could gravely undermine the negotiations.

Mr. Vanik called for voluntary export restraints by the major foreign steel manufacturers so that imports of steel here are reduced to 18 per cent of domestic consumption.

Mr. Vanik also proposed that the import volume be allowed to rise if domestic steel producers increased their selling prices by an "inordinate" amount.

Brae oilfield explorers out of depth on forecasts

The Brae field lies 175 miles out into the North Sea, east of the Orkney Islands, and is the kind of reservoir that gives oil prospectors constant nightmares. One minute they are probing prime oil-bearing rocks that yield over 33,000 barrels a day, and the next they are drilling into areas that don't produce enough oil to warrant detailed testing.

So it is hardly surprising that Brae has been dubbed variously as the biggest oilfield yet found in the North Sea and a disappointing discovery well down the North Sea rankings.

The extent of uncertainty over the field can be measured by the fact that Pan Ocean, a subsidiary of Marathon Oil and operator for the group, is now drilling the 10th and 11th appraisal wells on the structure, and has still not made an official announcement on the likely size of the field.

The problem facing the exploration consortium (Pan Ocean, the British National Oil Corporation, Bow Valley, Kerr McGee, Ashland L. L. and E. Siebens Oil and Gas, and Saga) is that Brae is a long straggling submarine structure divided into three and riddled with areas where the oil-bearing rocks have a very low permeability.

The ninth well was not worth testing, while the other eight produced over 33,000 barrels a day—much as an entire field in some areas of the world—typical of the pattern of the exploration effort. Well one flowed over 22,000 barrels a day and was followed by three moderately successful efforts and then four extremely disappointing drillings.

According to some of the explorers, there is plenty of oil in Brae. Difficulties arise over how much of it can be got out at an economic price. Unofficial estimates vary from partner to partner. Mr. Harold Hoopman, Marathon's president, is on the record as saying that 500 million barrels can be expected.

In the early days of the exploration effort, estimates of 1,000 million barrels of reserves were commonplace, although there are currently reports circulating among the members of the consortium which gloomily suggest that only 200 million barrels may be recoverable.

Whatever the final reckoning, some of the partners feel there is a lesson to be learnt for the whole of the North Sea exploration effort from the Brae field.

"Gone are the days of the Forties and Piper fields where the oil flows easily and cheaply. In future new discoveries are more likely to be similar to the complex geology of Brae and provide the prospectors with similar headaches when it comes to proving the reserves and devising development programmes," one consortium member observed.

Roger Vielvoye

Carter aide opposes higher interest rates

Jacky Carter

Mr. Charles Schultz, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, said at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association that higher interest rates could choke economic recovery.

Mr. Schultz is today the most influential White House economic policy spokesman. He was forced to resign as Director of the Office of Management and Budget. He was named by Mr. Carter earlier this year in his attempt to control the economy.

His latest comments are seen as a warning to the Federal Reserve Board to keep interest rates low. The Board is expected to raise rates in the near future.

The Federal Reserve Board's attempts to tighten credit policy are widely perceived as a major factor in the current economic downturn. The Board is expected to raise rates in the near future.

The rise in American interest rates is seen as a major factor in the current economic downturn. The Board is expected to raise rates in the near future.

Pound still gaining on the dollar

By Caroline Atkinson

Starting last year another good day on the foreign exchange market, the pound sterling has been strengthening on the dollar. The pound is now trading at a level of 2.25 to the dollar, up from 2.20 in January.

The pound's gain is due to a number of factors. One is the fact that the pound is a more stable currency than the dollar. Another is the fact that the pound is a more attractive currency for foreign investors.

The pound's gain is also due to the fact that the pound is a more attractive currency for foreign investors. The pound is now trading at a level of 2.25 to the dollar, up from 2.20 in January.

Ford will import cars to cut order backlog

By R. W. Shakespeare

Ford has told workers at its big Dagenham plant that it will start importing cars to cut its order backlog.

Ford's intention to import cars at a rate which represents about 10 per cent of its production requirements from the British operations was announced in a letter to workers at the Dagenham body plant from Mr. Mike Stagg, the plant director.

It was clearly intended to achieve two objectives: to underline the need for greater productivity and to defuse a potentially explosive situation that has arisen from the import of cars from the Continent.

The management spokesman said: "The plain fact is that we have not been achieving the production levels we want at Dagenham. We need to produce about 1,100 cars a day and for some time we have been getting less than 1,000."

"We have tried to boost output by introducing a Saturday overtime shift, but on four Saturdays we have had an absenteeism rate of between 23 and 34 per cent."

At present only Cortina cars will be imported. Ford is not yet making a firm decision about importing other models.

The Belgian plant does not normally make right-hand drive cars, so it too will have to take some Cortina components and sub-assemblies from Dagenham.

Ford's biggest problem area concerns Cortina sales—and to a lesser extent the Fiesta model. It has a backlog of orders for about 80,000 of these cars worth well over £200m.

The only way it can now hope to clear this is by "topping up" its production at Dagenham with cars assembled at Genk, Belgium, and Cork, in Ireland.

Its Irish assembly operations are based entirely on components made in England. The cars are shipped out in "knock-down" form, and put together at the Cork assembly lines. Normally these models are imported from Ireland or go for export to other parts of the world.

The Belgian plant does not normally make right-hand drive cars, so it too will have to take some Cortina components and sub-assemblies from Dagenham.

Big success of South Crofty offer

By Our Financial Staff

Public flotation for the first time in more than 50 years of a base metal mine in Britain has met with considerable success. The offer for sale of 35 per cent of South Crofty, the Cornish tin mine, has been subscribed some 45 times.

All applications are being heavily oversubscribed, with the amount placed down on the account of the smaller investor to participate in the flotation.

Terms of the allotment of shares are a weighted ballot of up to 10,000 shares for 200 shares, and all applications for a larger number of shares will be cut down to 2 per cent (with a minimum of 200 shares) in units of 100.

South Crofty expects to send out letters of acceptance and regret next Monday, with dealings beginning the following day. A further announcement is due today.

In floating off part of South Crofty, the parent company, had made clear that it favoured having a considerable number of smaller shareholders in South Crofty, particularly since there had been considerable interest in the future of the mine from the local Cornish community.

It is widely believed in the City that when dealings begin, the shares, which have been offered at a price of 50p each, will immediately attract a minimum premium of 10p, while 20p is not considered to be excessive.

At the issue price the shares will yield a prospective 12½ per cent on the proposed dividend.

Crofty has come to the market at a time when the tin price is almost daily reaching new high levels. Yesterday it rose to a record 56,945 a tonne.

Leyland stewards meet

Leyland Cars shop stewards, representing 75,000 members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, met at Eastbourne today to have another look at the company's proposals for industrial relations reforms.

The main issue, which has already brought the TGWU into conflict with the engineering union, is over the company's proposal for one company-wide bargaining unit.

Meanwhile, production of the Marina was again disrupted at Cowley, Oxford, when a small group of paint shop workers continued to resist new work assignments to boost productivity.

Low sales cut production of substitute tobacco

By Patricia Tisdall

Disappointing sales of cigarettes containing substitute tobacco have caused Imperial Tobacco to cut back operations at its New Smoking Material (NSM) factory at Ardeer, Ayrshire.

Rationalization will involve the loss of about 50 jobs, a half the workforce. Production at the factory in which Imperial has invested about £15m, including about £2m of Government development grants, has been reduced to the minimum practical level.

When substitute tobacco was publicly launched in July, the companies had hoped that cigarettes containing substitutes would gain 5 per cent of sales. In the event, despite intensive publicity, costing collectively an estimated £7m, the new cigarettes failed to meet their targets.

It became clear that few smokers were interested in even sampling the new product. Present estimates are that they are being bought by fewer than 2 per cent of smokers.

In a statement to employees at Imperial's NSM factory yesterday, Mr. T. Rome, the general manager, blamed the "negative influence of the Health Education Council's advertising campaign against the whole concept of tobacco substitutes" for the poor response to the new cigarettes.

He declared: "This campaign by a government, financed and authorized body has confused the smoking public and seriously damaged confidence in a widely researched, first class and innovative British product."

Imperial Tobacco resists their confidence in NSM and believes that in the longer term cigarettes containing it will command an increasing share of the United Kingdom market.

In the meantime consideration of expected demand and levels of stock show that nothing more than minimal production is likely to be required during 1978.

NSM was one of two tobacco substitute materials cleared for public sale by the Home Office. It was developed jointly by Imperial Tobacco and ICI. The plant at Ardeer is designed to have a production capacity of 13,600 tonnes a year, roughly equivalent to 15 per cent of all the tobacco used for cigarettes in the United Kingdom at present.

The other tobacco substitute, used by Gallaher and Carreras Rothmans, is Cytrel, and was developed and manufactured by the American Celanese Corporation.

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New panel of top economists starts work

Melvyn Westlake

The new, high-powered panel of academic economists set up by the Bank of England to help bridge the gap between economic theory and practice was formally inaugurated yesterday.

The panel, a wholly different kind of institution to existing bodies in Britain and overseas, is made up of 12 of the country's most prominent academic economists, eight of whom are from the University of Cambridge.

It is intended that the group will discuss over the coming months issues of key importance to the Bank's future economic policy, such as the balance of payments, the exchange rate of the pound and the appropriate role of monetary targets.

However, the panel will be consultative rather than advisory, and is likely to change its composition depending on the subjects to be discussed.

Yesterday's meeting, which was attended by Mr. Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank, and lasted from 10.30 until midnight, was largely concerned with the procedural technicalities. The next one, probably to be held early next year, will get down to the real business of the panel.

The outlook is all the more concerned with the procedural technicalities. The next one, probably to be held early next year, will get down to the real business of the panel.

The outlook is all the more concerned with the procedural technicalities. The next one, probably to be held early next year, will get down to the real business of the panel.

How the markets moved

THE POUND		Bank	
		buy	sell
100 Swiss	115.5	1.62	1.57
100 Dutch	170.0	30.50	28.50
100 French	170.0	65.00	63.00
100 German	170.0	9.93	9.88
100 Italian	170.0	11.00	10.70
100 Japanese	170.0	7.50	7.20
100 Australian	170.0	8.24	8.22
100 New Zealand	170.0	4.42	4.40
100 South African	170.0	65.00	62.25
100 Hong Kong	170.0	8.40	7.95
100 Singapore	170.0	157.00	1515.40
100 Malaysia	170.0	482.00	456.00
100 Thailand	170.0	4.48	4.26
100 Philippines	170.0	9.91	9.65
100 Indonesia	170.0	75.50	69.50
100 Sri Lanka	170.0	5.00	4.80
100 Ceylon	170.0	149.25	144.00
100 Maldives	170.0	8.75	8.48
100 Zanzibar	170.0	4.28	4.06
100 Swaziland	170.0	1.79	1.74
100 Lesotho	170.0	37.00	35.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes are only as supplied yesterday for Barclays Bank International. The pound is overvalued against travellers' cheques and the foreign currency markets.

THE POUND	
100 Swiss	115.5
100 Dutch	170.0
100 French	170.0
100 German	170.0
100 Italian	170.0
100 Japanese	170.0
100 Australian	170.0
100 New Zealand	170.0
100 South African	170.0
100 Hong Kong	170.0
100 Singapore	170.0
100 Malaysia	170.0
100 Thailand	170.0
100 Philippines	170.0
100 Indonesia	170.0
100 Sri Lanka	170.0
100 Ceylon	170.0
100 Maldives	170.0
100 Zanzibar	170.0
100 Swaziland	170.0
100 Lesotho	170.0

Gold was unchanged at \$155.125.
 SDR-5 was 1.16648 on Wednesday while SDR-2 was 0.663791.
 Commodities: Rubber's index was at 1506.5 (previous 1504.3).
 Reporters page 24 and 26.

Montefibre plans to make 6,000 redundant

Rome, Oct. 5.—Montefibre SpA, the Montedison group's loss-making synthetic fibres subsidiary, has advised the unions of plans to make 6,000 workers redundant, and pull out of a number of companies in which it had significant participations in order to cut losses, the Trade Union Federation said here today.

The Montefibre announcement follows a statement last week outlining the company's financial position, arising from the world fibres crisis and internal problems.

Unions had told the Government they refused to negotiate with the company on the basis of such unacceptable proposals, the Union Federation said.

Montedison group workers will strike on October 7 in protest against the proposals, the federation added.

The companies from which Montefibre proposes to withdraw include the state-owned Fibres joint venture with Anic SpA, the state chemicals group, Chimica e Fibra del Tirso, and a number of textile and clothing concerns in which it had financial interests, the federation said.—Reuters.

Cutlery import quotas urged to save 10,000 jobs

By Stephen Goodwin

An application to the Government for a global quota on cutlery and silverware imports which would give United Kingdom manufacturers a 50 per cent share of the home market, is being sought by the Cutlery and Silverware Association.

Without rigorous restrictions the association fears the steel, stainless steel, silverware and cutlery imports could go to the wall, taking with it some 10,000 jobs, most of them in Sheffield.

In 1965 imports claimed 30 per cent of the home market. Today nine out of every 10 stainless steel table knives, forks and spoons sold in the United Kingdom are imported. By value imports have risen from 25.02 per cent in 1965 to 77.55 per cent last year.

The dominant force in recent years has been South Korea, which is taking 39 per cent of the United Kingdom market by volume. Japan takes 21 per cent and Hongkong 19.5 per cent. After the EEC (4.25 per cent) and others have taken a small slice British manufacturers are left with 12 per cent.

Mr Brian Viner, president of the association, said it wanted the Government to take action or at least decide "once and for all that they will not move at all and that they are prepared to risk sacrificing an industry and a further 10,000 people to the rapidly escalating numbers on the dole."

The association is calling for a five-year restriction of imports of stainless steel flatware and table cutlery, together with their blanks, to about 40 per cent of the market by value and 50 per cent by pieces.

'Hard decisions ahead' BSC chief says as weekly losses soar to £7m

By Peter Hill

Employees of the British Steel Corporation, where weekly losses have now soared to over £7m, have been warned that the BSC will be forced to take some hard decisions in the months ahead, if the steel industry is to emerge from the present crisis in a modern and profitable shape.

Sir Charles Vickers, who took over as chairman a year ago, has written an open letter to the corporation's employees, published in the latest issue of Steel News, the corporation's newspaper, in which he stresses that the steel industry throughout the world was in a bad way.

Demand was weak, overcapacity as enormous, prices very poor and costs were rising. The next upturn in the steel cycle, he said, was not expected to provide much of a boost, and

the corporation faced some years of hard times. Every tonne of sales would have to be fought for and delivery, quality and price would be essential to preserve the business.

"These of our plans which are old and expensive to run will inevitably come under heavy pressure, and there are some hard decisions in front of us," said Sir Charles.

Already the BSC has implemented a programme of temporary works closures, cutbacks on new capital investment and voluntary redundancies in a bid to reduce the losses. Whistleblowers are preparing contingency plans which could involve further cutbacks in spending on new plant and a re-structuring of the corporation's finances.

The BSC, he said, would survive by continued effort and determination, and he had

no doubt that the organization would succeed. Calling for a year of "precise performance" the corporation chairman urged employees at all levels to be conscious of the need to ensure that customers were satisfied with delivery dates, prices and quality.

In a message directed particularly to full-time officials of steel industry trade unions, he said: "In this situation the old habits of confrontation no longer apply. Your members, our employees have to suffer always both of us encourage precise, diligent, intelligent flexible performance under the excellent consultative arrangements we have at BSC."

The corporation, he continued, required huge amounts of money to make up for the years of neglect in order to modernize itself, and customers had to be satisfied to ensure BSC deserved the money.

Shell talks on Anglesey oil terminal

Shell Oil officials were told yesterday that Britain's only municipally-owned oil terminal was yielding financial returns considerably below that projected by the company in 1971.

At yesterday's meeting of the Anglesey Marine Oil Terminal Committee, Shell officials agreed to meet a panel from the Isle of Anglesey borough council to discuss a review of the financial arrangements made with the council in 1973.

One of the main arguments put forward was that an inflation review should take place on an annual basis rather than every two years and the concept of minimum guaranteed payments should be accepted on a long-term basis.

A memorandum submitted to the council yesterday said that Anglesey, heavily dependent on tourism, accepted Shell's project despite the potential pollution risk and on the basis of strong arguments advanced by the company that the oil terminal was vitally necessary in the national interest.

Anglesey provided Shell with a port authority on terms substantially more favourable to the company than it could have obtained elsewhere.

Non-investment of capital by the council as to Shell's material advantage in that it enabled the company to control the design, construction, cost and operation more effectively and cheaply.

Benn guidelines put to Paris energy meeting

From Ian Murray

Paris, Oct. 5.—North Sea oil potential allowed Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, to adopt a somewhat patronising air when he addressed the International Energy Agency governing board here today.

The meeting has been called to agree a communiqué designed to solve an energy crisis forecast for 1985.

Mr Benn, flying over for the day from the Brighton Labour Party conference as it discussed the European Community, joined the other 18 energy ministers from the member nations of the IEA, for their afternoon session.

He apologised for his short visit and made five main points.

The first was to give a warning against too much reliance on forecasts. He produced several compiled by the Organisation for European Co-operation and Development, within which the IEA is set up, which had been shown to be wrong over the years. There was every need, he said, to update them regularly.

Secondly, he said the meeting that energy demand and supply could not be considered properly unless the whole world, rather than the 19 countries of the IEA, was taken into consideration. From this came his third point: that the United Nations had an important role to play.

Each country had to develop

its own energy policy in its own way. Britain, he said, had always done this by following guidelines and not by legislation or by setting targets. Every country had to implement its energy policy in the light of its own experience.

Finally, he called for greater openness in energy discussions. There was no point in holding meetings behind closed doors—similar to the one he was addressing—and then complaining that the public had no idea what it was talking about on the energy question.

Mr Benn welcomed the idea of regular top-level meetings between energy ministers, but emphasised his belief that they should be held publicly so that everyone knew what was going on.

Behind his stand lies the British view that no IEA ruling—however much the Government agrees with it—should be allowed to make the energy minister abdicate control over his country's policy.

Britain has told the Agency that it is already following the main points to be set out in tomorrow's communiqué, and will take too kindly to any suggestion that North Sea oil should be subject to any development controls other than those imposed by the Government itself.

The target was to reach self-sufficiency in oil as quickly as possible, probably by 1985, and then to formulate a depletion policy as will then seem best.

CBI warns Government on 'bullying' over pay

Lord Wainwright, the Confederation of British Industry president, warned the Government that if it started "bullying" companies to comply with its 10 per cent guideline on pay settlements, its whole anti-inflation pay restraint policy would come crashing to the ground.

He said: "We expect that where the Government has to use tough talk or threats to apply sanctions to individual companies it will do this only after careful examination of the case."

Lord Wainwright who was in Belfast for the annual meeting of regional members of the CBI, was referring obliquely to the local company, James Mackie & Sons, to which the Government has denied export credit guarantees as a sanction after the company awarded a 22 per cent rise to its 4,000 employees.

He made it clear that the CBI shared the Government's view that the national payroll should not rise by more than 10 per cent, a figure which he claimed had been invented by the CBI and only adopted by the Government.

He took issue with the Government, however, on its rigid application of the limit to all companies. Some settlements could be above and some below the 10 per cent limit, he said, and the overall national objective was met.

Lord Wainwright pointed out that although the majority of pay claims now pending were for increases exceeding 30 per cent, the fair settlements under the current round of pay talks, which involved several hundred thousand workers, showed that in most cases agreements were very near the 10 per cent guideline.

"This year the difference between the asking price and the settling price is going to be particularly acute. Both employers and trade union negotiators have to get into practice again after scarcely getting their feet under the rug the two years of rigid pay restraint."

"In this period I expect a lot of argy-bargy and a lot of arm-waving, but in the end I believe moderation will prevail."

In a reference to the Ford Motor Company which, unlike Mackie, is likely to be permitted to breach the guideline without government sanction, Lord Wainwright said that if its interference led to industrial unrest, or an unreasonable settlement, inflated production costs, a new 100,000 Ford engine plant for South Wales could be lost.

Budget deficit target 'misleading'

By Melvyn Westlake

The Government should abandon the "harmful and misleading" target for its Budget deficit that was agreed with the International Monetary Fund last year when Britain was seeking its loan, says the Fabian discussion paper published today. Mr Paul Ormerod, a senior economist at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, argues that the Government's fiscal stance is extremely restrictive. Far from being a means of domestic output and employment, its taxation and spending policy is now highly "contractionary".

As evidence of this, Mr Ormerod uses a concept known as the "all employment public sector" which he defines as the sum of the public sector and the private sector. This is rather different from the concept used by the Government, which bases its target for the Budget deficit on the actual level of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement. It has pledged itself to the IMF not to allow the actual PSBR to rise above £8,700m in the current financial year.

However, Mr Ormerod points out that the adoption of the PSBR as a limiting target ignores the fact that the borrowing requirement suffers from a fundamental weakness, namely that it fails to distinguish the influence of the Budget on the economy from the influence of the economy on the Budget.

Foundrymen's advice to aid productivity

Although the Government's £80m aid scheme for grants has provided a much-needed boost to new investment in the ferrous foundries industry, there is still "much scope" for improving the use of existing plant and equipment, according to a report issued today.

The report, "Foundrymen's Views", by the ferrous foundries trade body, says that discussions with 150 foundrymen at all levels had brought to light many suggestions for improving productive performance for home and export output. But far more attention should be given to production planning and control, even on a computer-assisted basis.

The report says there is a need to ensure that the industry generates sufficient funds for continued survival and renewal. Low profitability hampered its ability to modernize its plants, increase output and employment, and improve wages and working conditions.

Three conferences of management and trade unions will discuss the report in Birmingham on October 17; in York on October 20 and in Glasgow on October 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A system of tax relief for small businesses

From Professor John S. Hall

Sir, If an autumn budget is to reduce direct taxation, the case for small business relief is a strong one both on economic and social grounds.

Small companies are not introduced because it is difficult for private companies to raise money and consequently they have to plough back profits for expansion or even, with inflation, to stay in the same position. The same applies to the private trader assessable under Schedule D, Case I.

Small business relief must be simple to operate and go to those most in need. It is suggested that the first half of the basic rate could be tax free, so that the first £3,000 of a trader's profits would suffer no tax and the second £3,000 would attract the basic rate of 34 per cent. Full relief would be available only to those whose taxable income from all sources does not exceed £6,000.

There would be marginal relief of 100 per cent, as applied to the old "slab" system of estate duty, but after deducting higher rate tax. With present tax rates the limit of relief would be £7,764 computed as follows:

£6,001 to £7,000 at 60 per cent after deducting higher rate tax at 40 per cent = £600; £7,001 to £7,764 at 55 per cent after higher rate tax at 45 per cent = £240; totalling £840, which equals £3,000 at 34 per cent.

The investment income surcharge would not be affected, except where it produces a

marginal rate in excess of 100 per cent. The maximum amount would be small—15 per cent of £1,764, the marginal band, and this would escape tax, but only if the taxpayer could satisfy the Inspector of Taxes that the tax saved was paid into a fund which could be used only for the benefit or expansion of the business.

The relief would be available only in respect of one trade to a bona fide full-time trader. It would also apply to commercial partners at arm's length. There would be the usual anti-avoidance provisions.

To complaints of favourable tax discrimination by employees assessable under the PAYE system the reply is two-fold. First, the self-employed—and this applies particularly to the small shopkeeper—often work long hours for a net remuneration, which, costing on a normal working week and overtime basis, no trade unionist would accept. Secondly, the private trader's capital is at risk. He does not enjoy the benefits of the Redundancy Payments Act and the Employment Protection Act.

All too often he puts his private assets into the business hoping for better trading prospects, as he drifts towards insolvency.

Yours faithfully, JOHN S. HALL, The Manor, Grendon Underwood, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Use of the telex service

From Mr R. Nowell

Sir, "What is the use of a public (sic) service if only trained telex operators can use it?" asks Mr R. F. Bell (October 4). But it is simply not true that you need to be a trained telex operator in order to be able to make use of the public telex service provided by the Post Office in this country. All you need is the ability to use a typewriter.

Although it would be useful if the Post Office were to provide at Electra House an operating manual such as they supply to telex subscribers, in my experience the staff there are very friendly, helpful and courteous when it comes to explaining to newcomers how to use one of their machines.

True, the telex can be a somewhat alarming machine to use at first, mainly because there is no possibility of going back to correct what you have succeeded in misquoting or to insert the word or phrase you inadvertently omitted. But I am surprised that someone as resourceful as Mr Bell shows himself to be in his letter should have

accepted defeat from a simple keyboard.

Where his complaint is justified is over the reticence of the Post Office maintainers over this invaluable service. And he is lucky that it is only from London that he has tried to use the public telex. Elsewhere in England, I understand, there are public telex offices in Liverpool and Manchester, but I believe these are open only during normal office hours, whereas the London one is conveniently open 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

There seems to be no public telex available in Birmingham—a strange lack for a place that boasts of being the second city of the kingdom—while inhabitants of Yorkshire, the North-east, and the West Country also have to do without. The Post Office seems curiously half-hearted about this aspect of its service to the public.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT NOWELL, 2 Tudor Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 5PA. October 4.

Peruvian Corporation bankruptcy

From Mr R. Morrison

Sir, The Peruvian Corporation had the first word in this correspondence; may I please request the last. The Ambassador has admitted that the Peruvian Corporation "bought" the railway which had belonged to Peruvian Corporation at an auction at which the government was the only bidder and the government's agent had fixed the reserve price. He has expressed himself as satisfied with the legitimacy of that procedure but he has declined to discuss the justice of it.

That we are unable to proceed with this as yet on the basis of ordinary common justice is a great pity because it is as harmful to Peru's financial standing as it is harmful to the interests of the investors whom my committee represents.

Peru is now the only country in South America which has failed to compensate foreign investors for confiscated assets. One day it will do so.

I believe it to be in the best interests of Peru and of investors in that country that the day should be soon and I urge the Government of Peru through its Ambassador to commence negotiation rather than claim legality for what is a bare claim.

Government's own agents, produce a register of assets over liabilities. If the transfer of ownership had been made on a "going concern basis" this surplus, if offered to Peruvian Corporation, would have gone some way to compensate its investors for the loss of their assets. The "liabilities" which subsequently were deducted from that surplus so as to eliminate it included liabilities which crystallized only because of the bankruptcy which the government had caused.

Certain facts are incontrovertible. 1. The Peruvian Corporation, which owned the railways in Peru, was encouraged to take a loan from the World Bank by the Peruvian Government's written promise that it would create the conditions in which the corporation could earn enough profit to service the loan. As the corporation was then forced into bankruptcy, it was unable to service the loan. It is clear that the government failed to keep that promise.

2. The auction of assets is a legal consequence of bankruptcy. In South America, bankruptcy was caused by the government. Although the Peruvian Ambassador claims that what his government did was legal, how can government claim legality for a consequence which seems from its own mouth to be a breach of promise?

3. The inventory of assets of the Peruvian Corporation that was compiled by the Peruvian

Conserving energy expertise

From Professor G. N. Walton

Sir, Professor Fells (The Times, September 29) writes: "If we are to reduce our nuclear power programme, for whatever reasons, perhaps we should reassemble the very considerable expertise in MHD still available in this country." Magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) is a means for converting thermal and electrical energy, whereas nuclear energy is a source of power and it is misleading to suggest that one is a substitute for the other. MHD could be used to improve the efficiency of high temperature nuclear reactors equally with that of coal-fired stations.

However, not only has this country abandoned major development of MHD—it has also abandoned the high temperature reactor (HTR) with which, in company with European colleagues, we led the world in the Dragon project, a Windfirdy action, which, costing on a normal working week and overtime basis, no trade unionist would accept. Secondly, the private trader's capital is at risk. He does not enjoy the benefits of the Redundancy Payments Act and the Employment Protection Act.

All too often he puts his private assets into the business hoping for better trading prospects, as he drifts towards insolvency.

Yours faithfully, JOHN S. HALL, The Manor, Grendon Underwood, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Prophecy of James

From Dr M. A. Sharp

The recent agony of mind of our financial experts, as epitomized in David Blake's article of September 28, brings vividly to mind the prophecy of the Apostle James in the 5th chapter of his Epistle: "A word to you who have great possessions. Weep and wail over the miserable fate descending on you. Your riches have rotted; your fine clothes have mouldered; your silver and gold have rusted away, and their very rust will be evidence against you and consume your flesh like fire. You have piled up wealth in an age that is near its close. The wages you never paid to the man who mowed your fields are loud against you, and the outcry of the reapers has reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts. You have lived in luxury, fattening yourselves like cattle—and the day for slaughter has come. You have condemned the innocent and murdered him."

How much longer before they realize that it is the whole capitalist system that is wrong and that no amount of tinkering with the details can turn something fundamentally rotten and selfish into something good and generally beneficial—any more than a few rearranging of vice can somehow turn it into virtue? Yours sincerely, M. A. SHARP, 49 Regent Road, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV3 6JX. October 2.



Guinness Peat Group Limited

Attributable Profit up by 58%

Highlights from Lord Kissine's statement for the year ended 30th April 1977

"Before tax the total profits of the group are well in excess of the £10 million mark for the first time in our history."

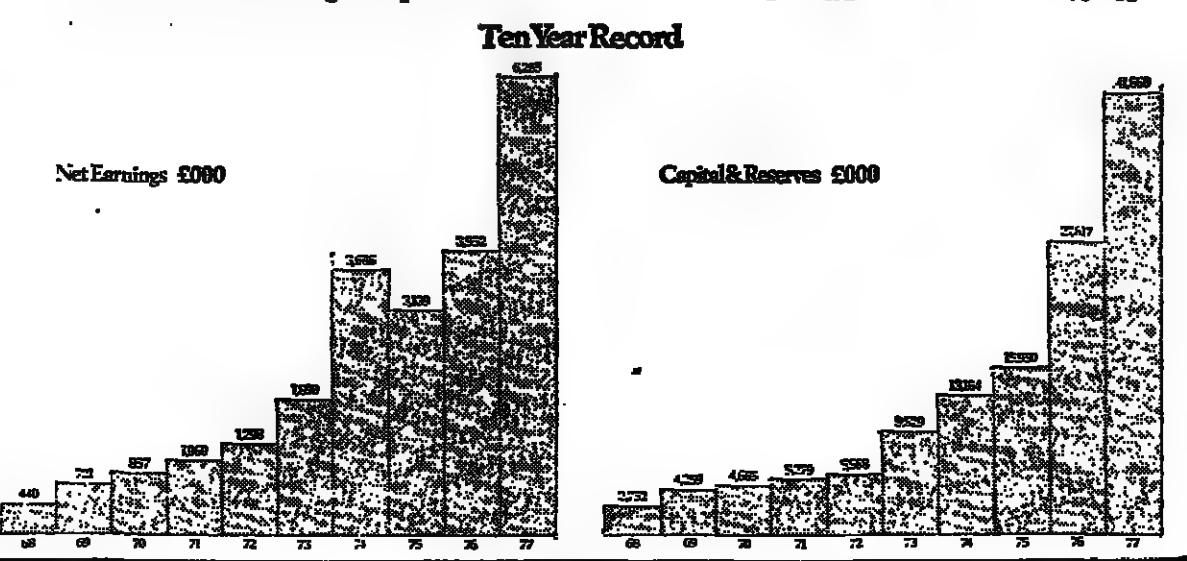
Shareholders funds have increased from £28 million last year to almost £42 million.

The group's operations have continued to develop in all its activities."

- * Efforts now particularly directed towards the development of the Projects Division.
- * Progress of trading side maintained and extended into new areas and range of commodities.
- * The Bank, Guinness Mahon & Co. Ltd., has made steady progress, particularly in the Corporate Finance Division.
- * The Insurance Broking section has shown substantially improved results.

The results of the group for the current year to date are ahead of those for the comparative period in the previous year.

The Year in Brief	
	1977
Capital and reserves	£41,860,000
Net assets per share	127.3p
Net earnings	£6,255,000
Earnings per share	20.6p
Dividends per ordinary share: net	9.9505p
gross equivalent	15.16045p



The full Report & Accounts, and Lord Kissine's statement, can be obtained from: The Secretary, Guinness Peat Group Limited, 32 St. Mary at Hill, London EC3P 3AJ.

London Merchant Securities Limited

Salient Points from Chairman's Review for the year ended 31st March 1977

- * Net profit attributable to LMS after tax rose by more than £1.5 million to over £2.5 million.
- * Selective sales of investment property produced a total of £8.5 million (some £1.5 million above book value) and net rental income from investment property was maintained at approximately £2.5 million.
- * Net tangible assets attributable to LMS rose to £44.7 million and market value is considered to be significantly in excess of book cost.
- * Short term borrowings were materially reduced.
- * Carlton Industries achieved impressive growth and the indications are that profits will advance further in the current year.
- * Century Power and Light showed improved profits from North Sea operations of the Phillips consortium and recent successful drillings enhance the potential of the holding.
- * The varied range of the group's holdings provides a sound basis for continued asset and income growth.
- * The directors recommend a final dividend of 3.5%, bringing total for the year to 5%, (3.5% last year).

Report and accounts available from the Secretary, 100 George Street, London W1H 0DJ.

Hongkong fears plan by Community to lower textile quotas

Hongkong, Oct 5.—Hongkong could lose about \$1K480m (about £58m) worth of textile trade and more than \$1K1,000m in trade possibilities if the EEC rolls back 1978 quotas to 1976 import levels, Sir Murray Maclellan, the colony's Governor, said here.

He told the Legislative Council that the EEC showed every sign of wishing to impose more restrictions in the forthcoming bilateral textile agreement negotiations.

Quotas for eight sensitive items from so-called "principal suppliers", of which Hongkong was one, would be cut below the 1976 level of trade, he added.

Seven of these sensitive items affected Hongkong and comprised 57 per cent of its textile exports to the EEC, Sir Murray said.

The EEC Commission's ideas may not reduce Hongkong's depressed textile trade with the

EEC, but they would block the possibility of export recovery once Community demand recovered, he said.

EEC imports of these items from Hongkong have declined significantly since 1975.

The EEC's proposal to create a pool of quotas for so-called "newcomers", and countries with preferential arrangements at the expense of Hongkong, he regarded as "grossly discriminatory".

These ideas took the international textile trading system dangerously near the brink of a progressive slide into protectionism, although the Commission professed this was precisely what it wished to avoid, Sir Murray said.

The discriminatory aspect of the EEC's proposals was not designed to protect the domestic industry so much as to redistribute trade by giving a large part of the suppliers' existing trade to other exporting countries.

Accounting relief for properties

By Nicholas Hirst

Property companies now look likely to get their own way over the introduction of a new accounting standard on depreciation. The controversial standard, the proposed SSAP 12, would have required property companies to depreciate their buildings, which property companies think would make a nonsense of their financial results.

But yesterday the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales issued a statement asking the joint ruling body of the accountancy profession, the Accounting Standards Committee, to give further consideration to the whole question of property investment company accounts before expressing an opinion on the proposed standard on depreciation.

The Institute's request is expected to be accepted by the ASC.

Footwear trade gap widens

Footwear imports in the first seven months have increased by more than 24 per cent compared with the 1976 period. Figures issued by the British Footwear Manufacturers Federation show that sales of imported footwear during the period totalled 78.58 million pairs compared with 63.33 million last year.

£58m export contracts by state sector

Britain's nationalised industries continue to expand their overseas consultancy business with more than £18m worth of new business secured in the past three months. Additionally, the 12 full and six associated members of the Nationalized Industries Overseas Group have tendered for potential new business worth more than £40m.

Many of the consultancy contracts will lead to opportunities for British plant and equipment manufacturers to sell their hardware overseas.

Recently, British Electricity International secured an important contract in Saudi Arabia to manage and operate an electricity undertaking covering the city of Riyadh and its suburbs.

Deutsche BP in uranium quest

From Peter Norman Bonn, Oct 5

Deutsche BP AG, the West German subsidiary of British Petroleum, is to begin exploring for uranium ore in the Bavarian forest area of West Germany.

The company announced today that it has acquired the rights to explore in two concessions covering 2,920 sq kilometres in lower Bavaria and the Bavarian Upper Palatinate over a three-year period. Intensive exploration work will begin next year.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Hopes of cut in MLR counter pay settlement doubts

The Bank of England's moderation signal on interest rates was widely interpreted to mean another half point cut in the Minimum Lending Rate and brought a strong rally in both equities and gilts.

At the outset fears that the Ford pay talks might set in train a series of inflationary claims lowered prices over a broad front. But thereafter a moderate demand and a complete lack of sellers was enough to inspire a much firmer tone and the FT Index, 3.7 down at 10 am, closed 4.0 better at 516.8 with more than half the gain coming after 3 pm. In the gilt market long dates fell a full point in early trading but rallied sufficiently to close with a gain of about three-eighths on the day. Interest rate considerations also spurred the short end of the market and many stocks scored rises of up to half a point.

In the shipping sector P & O's half-year figures brought an erratic response. After initially going ahead a few pence on profits which, if anything, were a little better than market hopes the short-term implications of

the second half warning took over and the shares closed 3p lower on balance at 137p.

Bromley-based builders merchant Roberts Adlard has been well supported in the past couple of days and finished 8p better at 76p. A spokesman said he knew of no reason for the sudden flurry of interest and pointed out that Grosvenor Securities' 22 per cent stake was taken as a long-term investment.

Many felt that this bearish reaction was overdone and that over the longer term the shares are a good "hold". Elsewhere on the pitch Ocean gained ground in early trading on an investment recommendation. But in sympathy with P & O they fell back and by the close stood unchanged at 144p. "Blit" equities staged a late rally with seven point rises from both Glaxo at 630p and Bechtel at 657p. Fisons finished 5p to 350p but there were weak performances from EMI, off 3p to 216p ahead of figures, and Reckitt & Coleman which slipped 10p to 473p.

Bid and speculative issues were again to the fore with Morson Tea collapsing 85p to 325p after it was learned that Buxa-Deans had decided to withdraw its terms. The ever-active Spink & Son rose 6p to 311p after 317p still waiting for further developments while further speculative interest was directed into G. R. Downing, up 10p to 225p. Time

Products which gained 10p to 115p, brewer J. A. Dervish, which gained 7p to 147p and Bath & Portland which ended the session 5p ahead at 81p on vague takeover talk. Another firm spot was to be found in Status Discount which closed 8p up to 100p.

In mines St. Piran met with demand at 88p, up 4p, ahead of the South Crofty debut and

on the success of the offer. Another good spot was Tamjong which firmed 5p to 90p while the best of an active rice pitch were Assam Investment up 7p to 115p, Joka 6p to 226p and McLeod Russell which rose 11p to 211p. Siebens Oil fell to 267p on the "dry" well reported but later rebounded to 285p, a net rise of 2p. News of the jobs cutback at the Ross Turkey

plant hit Bernard Matthews which ended 10p lower at 137p.

The current market merits of opinion over the merits of "bull" with the shares rising 10p to 232p while in anticipation of interim figures, Buxa-Deans rose 9p to 150p.

The takeover talks announced in mid-August, by electric insulating board maker BS & Whiteley may be close to a conclusion. The group warned that the discussions could "proceed" but the word yesterday that an agreement is near and the shares rose 5p to 49p. In 1975, Swiss Weidmann group, others built up a third bid but were relieved of making a bid by a Takeover Panel ruling that the holding should be reduced.

Profit statements brought a strong look to Lawtex, up 10p to 62p, Sanderson Kayser 3p to 61p and Reed & Exton 1p to 55p. But jeans group Lee Cooper slipped 15p to 110p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	£/s	total
J & E England (I)	19.8(15.8)	0.51(0.50)	4.94(5.77)	0.36(0.33)	—	—
French (F)	10.7(9.8)	1.1(1.0)	—	1.2(1.2)	3/11	3.19(2.2)
Herr Brooks (F)	3.1(2.4)	0.24(0.13)	9.26(5.32)	1.0(0.87)	25/11	—
Hillman (F)	4.0(3.5)	0.20(0.22)	—	1.1(1.1)	—	—
Johns (F)	12.3(10.5)	0.1(0.1)	—	0.46(0.24)	9/12	0.70(0.4)
Joe Lay Ltd (I)	—	0.06(0.06)	—	1.7(1.6)	—	—
Percy Lane (I)	8.7(5.1)	0.69(0.43)	—	1.2(1.0)	1/12	2.8(2.0)
Lawson (F)	9.7(6.1)	0.45(0.09)	—	1.3(1.0)	—	—
Lawson (F)	13.4(14.4)	1.1(1.0)	—	0.8(0.4)	30/11	—
P & O (I)	—	26.9(13.2)	—	3.0(1.5)	3/11	—
Raine Eng (F)	14.5(11.7)	0.83(0.75)	2.2(2.4)	0.58(0.52)	30/11	0.57(0.78)
Reed Exon (I)	6.6(5.1)	0.35(0.05)	—	2.0(1.0)	—	—
Sanderson K (I)	—	0.58(0.45)	—	1.4(1.3)	5/11	—
Scott & Con (F)	—	0.38(0.22)	1.27(0.79)	1.20(0.5)	8/12	1.27(0.79)
Shirley (F)	2.9(2.8)	0.14(0.21b)	2.9(—)	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pound per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Forecast. b Loss.

Haslemere optimistic but warning on rents

By Our Financial Staff

Expressing "tremendous" confidence in his company's potential, Mr. F. E. Cleary, the chairman of Haslemere Estates, was in buoyant mood at yesterday's annual meeting in spite of the various problems confronting the sector.

In the first half of the current year, Haslemere has effected "some satisfactory business" and he would be surprised if it does not achieve "adequate" growth in the full 12 months.

However, commenting on the Community Land Act, which was introduced by the present Government, he believes that this has harmed the building industry, destroying many small builders and putting many architects out of work.

Nevertheless, having nearly destroyed the building industry, the Government now votes £100m to revive it," he added.

He hoped that with a change of government there would be a change of attitudes towards landlords and developers and gave a warning that if there was not a revival in development, rents could "go through the roof in a year or so".

He pointed out that the Government seems to ignore the fact that to maintain a thriving



Mr. F. E. Cleary, chairman of Haslemere Estates.

community there must be a booming building industry. This is because in construction of houses, factories, warehouses and roads, a vast range of other industries are supplying all the essential machinery, plant and furnishings, etc., required for any new building. To these could be added all the professional services engaged in construction work and land operations.

Buxa not to proceed with Moran bid

Buxa-Deans Tea will not now proceed with its proposed offer for Morson Tea Holdings.

On news of the bid last week the shares of Morson jumped some 22p to 410p. With the withdrawal of Buxa-Deans yesterday, Morson's shares retreated 11p to 399p at about the pre-bid announcement price. The offer at 54 a share valued Morson at a total of £1.4m.

The decision not to proceed by Buxa was taken after Moran director's refusal to recommend the proposal and that holders of over 51 per cent would not accept. The Takeover Panel has agreed that Buxa need not proceed.

Early in 1977 John Sismore, the Moran managing agent, held a stake of over 21 per cent in the group. Other big holders were Dunstan Trust Nominees with 12.36 per cent and Mr and Mrs G. F. Theobald, who held 11.7 per cent.

Moran itself took over Litchfield & Soudy in May for about £313,000 cash. L & S, a private unlisted company, operated as warehouse keepers, property managers and owners.

Business appointments

Bank post for Sir David Barran

Sir David Barran has joined the board of Standard Chartered Bank.

Mr. J. M. Hoedl, merchandise director of Owen Owen (Stores) is now a director of the parent company, Owen Owen.

Mr. R. A. Dale has become director and general manager of Lucas Batteries in succession to Mr. J. Ridd.

Mr. Bob Grier is now financial director of Howard Tenens Services.

Mr. Thomas Howard Frother is to join the board of Schroder International. Mr. Alastair Forsyth, an assistant director of J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Company, is to become a director of Schroder International.

Mr. James Plumpton is now marketing director of Formula International and Mr. Jack Saville has been made manufacturing director.

Mr. Peter A. Sussmann, now a vice-president of Ametec, has resigned as managing director of Ametec Overseas, a subsidiary of Ametec, but remains a director.

Mr. Anthony Kershaw is now on the board of Common Brothers Overseas.

Mr. Albert Hallam has been made an assistant director of Barclays Insurance Services.

Mr. B. C. Watson is to concentrate on interests outside Imperial Group and is to resign as a director of the company to take effect on October 31. A number of Mr. Watson's responsibilities will be taken over by Mr. M. A. Anson, who has been a director since 1968.

Mr. Norman Barrie Sage is now United Kingdom managing director of Simons, Vischer & Co.

Mr. T. P. Durie, assistant managing director of Courage and chairman of Courage (Western) at the end of 1976, has succeeded Mr. H. C. Hobhouse, who is to retire from the boards of Courage and (Western). Mr. Durie will remain a member of the board of Courage, but will relinquish his present positions.

Mr. M. N. P. Cottrell, chairman and managing director of Saccoccini & Speed, will be assistant managing director, brewing, of Courage in February.

Mr. H. R. Cullum, financial director of Courage with become chairman of Saccoccini & Speed at the end of January. He will also become assistant managing director, finance, of Courage in February.

Mr. R. H. Walters, managing director of Saccoccini & Speed Services, will succeed Mr. Cottrell as managing director of Saccoccini & Speed.

Mr. B. J. Ryan, administrative director of Saccoccini & Speed Services, will become managing director of Saccoccini & Speed Services and will join the board of Saccoccini & Speed.

Mr. R. E. Raworth, personal technical director of Courage, will be deputy managing and personnel director, Saccoccini & Speed.

Mr. Tony Roberts has been made a director of Champ & Co. He succeeds Mr. R. J. Kerslake, who has retired.

Mr. D. J. Finlay-Mulligan is the new chairman of Monument Securities in place of Mr. C. J. Armstrong, who remains on the board.

Mr. H. A. Smith has become a director of David S. Smith (Holdings).

SKF

Interim statement

SKF Group sales increased by 10.1% during the first eight months of 1977 and amounted to 5,042 million Swedish kronor (Skr) compared with Skr 4,579 million for the corresponding 1976 period. Income before depreciation rose to Skr 541 million (527m) while profit before extraordinary items, provisions and taxes was Skr 76 million (133m). Devaluation caused extraordinary currency losses of Skr 75 million not charged during the period.

Bearing sales went up by 7.4% with a substantial contribution to Group earnings despite the keenly competitive high-stock market situation. Steel losses were severe in common with the special steels industry in general.

Commenting the position at the opening of SKF Steel's new 350 million kronor facilities, Group President Lennart Johansson could not foresee any appreciable profitability improvement in the Swedish end of operations during 1977. Earnings for the year would largely reflect the counterbalancing effect of world-wide operations.

Comparison tables including the financial year 1976:

	Jan 1st-Aug 31st 1977		Jan 1st-Dec 31st 1976	
	Mkr	%	Mkr	%
Sales	5,042	100.0	4,579	100.0
Cost of goods sold	3,661	72.7	3,515	72.4
Selling and administrative expenses	840	16.6	737	16.1
Operating income before depreciation	541	10.7	527	11.5
Depreciation	521	6.4	278	6.1
Operating income after depreciation	220	4.3	249	5.4
Financial income and expenses—net	-159	-11.5	-187	-4.1
Sundry income and expenses—net	+15	—	—	—
Income before extraordinary items, provisions and taxes	76	1.5	133	2.9
Investment in plant and property	407	—	364	—
Cost calculated depreciation	348	—	328	—
Average number of employees	57,275	—	57,692	—
Group sales by product field*				
Rolling bearings	3,964	72.7	3,691	74.4
Steel products	765	14.0	702	14.2
Cutting tools	215	3.9	181	3.6
Other products	512	9.4	389	7.8
Total	5,456	100.0	4,963	100.0

*The figures include internal deliveries between the three product fields.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION OF BONDS

Olivetti International S.A.

US \$15,000,000 9 1/2 %

15 Year guaranteed bonds of 1970 unconditionally guaranteed by Ing. C. Olivetti & C. S.p.A.

Redemption of US \$993,000—Redemption date November 15th 1977

According to art. 7 of Paying Agency Agreement and terms and conditions of the bonds we inform that the following bonds have been called for redemption at par:

inform that the above-mentioned bonds have been called for redemption at \$114.24.												
3	1078	2573	3945	5632	8322	9387	10412	11124	12082	12603	13503	14278
4	1107	2582	3956	5661	8337	9402	10427	11139	12093	12614	13514	14289
5	1157	2596	3966	5677	8357	9397	10403	11110	12078	12656	13510	14300
6	1163	2741	4029	5700	7955	9412	10403	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
7	1201	2751	4036	5728	7076	9417	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
8	1237	2759	4081	5787	7114	9428	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
9	1237	2759	4102	5787	7088	9428	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
10	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
11	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
12	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
13	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
14	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
15	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
16	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
17	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
18	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
19	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
20	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
21	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
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24	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
25	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
26	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
27	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
28	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
29	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
30	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
31	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
32	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
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34	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
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38	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
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98	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
99	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
100	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659	13512	14340
101	1237	2759	4110	5781	7109	9433	10408	11153	12043	12659		

FINANCIAL NEWS

New employment laws give boost to Reed Executive



Mr. Alec Reed, chairman of Reed Executive.

Increasing Government legislation on employment may be seen as an unnecessary evil by many company directors, but it is providing a much-needed boost to the profits of the employment agencies.

Many employers, wary of the difficulties of getting rid of surplus workers, are turning to these agencies to provide them with temporary staff until they can assess the permanence of their requirements.

Reed Executive, which has been active in the recruitment of temporary staff, has seen its profits rise by 10 per cent to £1.4m in the first half of 1977.

The company's turnover rose by 10 per cent to £1.4m, while its profit rose by 10 per cent to £1.4m.

Reed Executive's profits are expected to rise further in the second half of the year, as the company continues to benefit from the increasing demand for temporary staff.

The company's chairman, Mr. Alec Reed, said that the company's profits were expected to rise by 10 per cent to £1.4m in the second half of the year.

for the 'eighties, continues to make a loss. In the first six months of the year it lost £145,000, compared to £96,000 last time. Two new stores were opened in the period, and, with a third due to come into operation in the next few months, this brings the total up to 12.

Financial charges on increased borrowings sucked £13,000 from profits, mainly due to the increased pay roll of the agency side, but property sales gave the group an £11,000 boost.

For shareholders there is an interim dividend of 3.0p gross and the directors anticipate paying a maximum final at the year end. There is also to be a four-for-five scrip issue. Following the results the shares increased 7p yesterday to close at 65p.

Over the past couple of years Reed, in common with other agencies, has been suffering from the increasing level of unemployment. In 1975 pre-tax profits halved to £500,000 but the signs of recovery, evident in last year's second half, have continued and the chairman is confident that the worst is now behind them.

Humphries Holdings sells film studios

Humphries Holdings, which is controlled by British Electric Traction, has sold 90 per cent of the capital of Twickenham Film Studios, which it bought in May last year. The buyer is Film Location Facilities, which is incorporated in Hongkong and it is understood that this company is owned by United States interests.

The price is £500,000 cash. Humphries has an option, after five years, to sell the 10 per cent stake to the purchaser at a price equal to one-ninth of the price paid by the buyer for the 90 per cent, plus one-tenth of the undistributed profits of Twickenham Film during the five years.

When Humphries bought the studios last year, it paid a minimum of £236,000, with a maximum of £360,000, depending on profits. The seller was not named.

Net assets of Twickenham Film at March 31 last, after deducting deferred tax of £34,000, were £33,000. In valuing the studios, the directors adjusted the valuation to reflect the excess of the price in May last year over the value of the studios at the time of the investment. Twickenham Film stood in Humphries' books at its original cost of £366,000.

For the year to March 31 last, net profits of the studios were £44,000, after deducting £34,000 for deferred tax and an extraordinary item of £4,000.

Lee Cooper fits snugly into jeans for the seventies

By Alison Mitchell

Despite the protestations of many fashion pundits, jeans seem destined to continue as the uniform of the seventies. Already the Ramford-based manufacturer Lee Cooper Group is turning out over 150,000 pairs a week and chairman Mr. Harold Cooper reveals that demand is still rising.

In the first half of this year the group spurred ahead with a 50 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £1.4m against £1m last time on turnover up from £14.4m to £23.8m. The financial year end of the group is now being brought into line with that of the subsidiaries and, as such, this year's interim results reflect only a three month period for the parent company.

Although demand is on the increase much of the improvement at Lee Cooper is the result of a previous expansion programme. "Years of building up markets in Western Europe are beginning to bear fruit," says the chairman. The group now sells its jeans and leisure wear in most Continental countries with a 40 per cent share of the market in Switzerland and a 35 per cent share in Belgium. In the United Kingdom, where competition is more severe, the group accounts for around 5 per cent of total sales.

The licensee division is continuing to increase its contribution. In the first half it chipped in with a 5 per cent share of profits and, two new licensees are being added annually.

Lee Cooper has now taken its first step into the Communist block with a factory, under licence, in Belgrade. "There is a tremendous market in Eastern Europe but it is difficult to get in," said Mr. Cooper. In the past three years around 10m pairs of jeans have been smuggled into Yugoslavia over the Italian border. The group anticipates manufacturing 500,000 units of clothing in the first year.

With order books at a good level, the directors are confident that second half trading will follow a similar pattern to the first six months, which could see the group with year end profits of around £3.5m. However, despite sparkling figures, shares were marked down 15p yesterday to close at 110p.

Hongkong Land opens with 14 pc rise

By Ashley Druker

Net profits increased some 14.4 per cent to \$HK\$90.8m, about £11.06m, are reported by Hongkong Land Company for the half to June 30. The interim dividend meanwhile is raised 9 per cent to 12 cents (1.46p) a share and a final of at least 25 cents against 22 cents is forecast.

Mr. D. K. Newbigging, chairman, said that sufficient funds for the group's present requirements had been ensured by an international bond issue in May. This raised the equivalent of \$HK\$300m, about £36.6m, repayable in 1988.

Following on another "progressive" year for the group, he said that construction has just started of phase 11 of the Hongkong Land's central district redevelopment scheme, the 45-storey office block due for completion by early 1980. All the central district properties remain fully let. Work has also started on the 36-storey Windsor House in Causeway Bay.

Meanwhile HKL has entered into the industrial property sector for the first time with its management of over 2m sq ft of factory space in Kowloon and the New Territories.

The buoyancy continues in the residential property sector where all its properties continue to be fully let. Construction has also begun on a development for 150 new flats to be completed in 1979. Its new township on Hongkong Island has also made further progress with construction of the nine blocks under phase 1 now under way. This should be completed by the middle of next year. The selling programme also continued with the sale of virtually all the four blocks comprising phase 11.

Guinness Peat in fine fettle

Following the record year which ended on April 30 last, Guinness Peat continues to show a strong performance in the current year to date up on the similar period of last year. Lord Kinnaird reports in his annual statement. In 1976/77 pre-tax profits topped £10m for the first time over and attributable profits, after tax, jumped by 58 per cent.

The balance sheet shows a substantial improvement. Shareholders' funds have climbed from £28m to almost £42m during the year and assets per share from 108p to 127p. The takeover of London Electrical & General Trust during the year and retained profits have boosted both liquidity and the group's asset position.

Over 50m of these funds have been used in Guinness Mahon, the banking side, and the net current assets of £2.5m on the group balance sheet represent a turnaround of £4.3m on last year.

As well as banking, Guinness Peat is in commodities, merchandising and processing, insurance, broking and underwriting. Stock and debtors have nearly doubled from the previous year. But these are not speculative stocks; insofar as the yeatle to commodities they are trading stocks covered by sales contracts.

Since the date of the balance sheet, the group's financial position has further improved inasmuch as the market capitalization of publicly-quoted investments in associates is concerned. These companies recently reported excellent results.

The value of these investments has increased substantially from the date of the balance sheet to the date of the report. The group's operations have continued to develop in all its activities satisfactorily. Its efforts and now being particularly directed towards the development of the projects division.

T French in 13 pc advance

Thomas French, maker of curtain styling products and electric surface heating products, in which Eagle Star has a 10 per cent stake, has increased pre-tax profits by 13 per cent to £1.14m in the year to July.

Turnover of the Manchester-based group has risen by 10 per cent overall to £10.7m, though turnover in the second six months was up by only 2 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year. Margins have increased from 10.2 per cent to 10.5 per cent and the directors have declared a second interim dividend of 1.89p. They hope to recommend a final dividend of 1.42p, making the total 4.8p gross against 3.46p.

Conditions in the United Kingdom have not been easy and the profit increase has only been achieved by careful house-keeping, says Mr. T. French, chairman.

Results at half time showed turnover of Thomas French up from £4.4m to £5.2m and turnover up by 10.2 per cent to £469,000. Back in April 1 the chairman said that the increase in profits had been achieved in a trading climate which had not been generally favourable and once again the group had to absorb substantial increases in the costs of raw material.

Meanwhile the last three months of this extended financial period have shown a slight improvement in conditions in the United Kingdom and overseas subsidiaries have traded at similar levels to the past few months, so that a reasonable profit is expected for this period which is normally the slackest quarter of the year.

The board is hoping for improved trading conditions and a further advance in profit from the new financial year which began on October 2.

Raine Eng outcome on target

The latest results from Raine Engineering Industries are in line with the forecast made at the time of the abortive bid for Sheffield Brick. Pre-tax profits rose from £752,000 to a record £838,000 in the year to June 30, compared with Raine's prediction of figures in excess of £830,000. Sales rose by 23 per cent to £14.57m, while exports were a quarter greater at £1.7m.

Although earnings per share slipped from the equivalent of 2.46p to 2.27p, the total gross payment is going up from 1.2p (adjusted for scrip) to 1.31p. This is the maximum rise allowed and the dividend is covered 2.39 times. Net assets stand at 29p per share.

The chairman, Mr. Michael H. Taylor, reports a high level of activity in the subsidiaries and expresses confidence in the group's continuing profitability.

Sanderson Kayser confident

Following the upturn in 1976, Sanderson Kayser reports a 28 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits to £1.1m in the first half of 1977. The interim payment, rises from 2.06p to 2.22p. Although sales are not given, a board spokesman said in spite of the continued slowdown in the world trade they were higher than last year. The group, which is a group of companies, has a group of well-stocked warehouses, in the United Kingdom and overseas, have contributed to the improved performance.

The outlook on order intake is encouraging and, providing a situation can be maintained at a reasonable level, no business confidence improves so should a group's prospects.

Pre-tax profits hit a peak of £1.7m in 1974, but fell to £1.1m in the following year. A then partly recovered to £1.4m in 1976. Sanderson Kayser makes many things, including high-grade steels, cold-rolled iron, wire, drop stampings, and so for wood and metal.

MK increasing its share of market

After a difficult year in which sales of Blackwood, Morton, carpet group, plunged from £4,000 to £2,400, Mr. Kenneth M. Hamilton, chairman, says his annual statement that the group's share of the market is increasing.

The board believes that customers have appreciated the group's consistent pricing policy and maintenance of standards in quality and service. However, a reasonable level of profitability will not be attained until demand allows a fuller use of plant.

another peak likely Leisure & Gen

Liverpool-based Leisure and General Holdings could make a pre-tax profit of over £1m in the current year. After 1976-77's record £925,000 pre-tax, the chairman, Mr. J. G. D. Chapple, says his annual statement that the company can look forward to "further significant increases" in turnover and profit this year. It has tried well, with high levels of capacity once again in the many motor hotels and holiday centres. Bookmaking and hi-fi and audio retailing is both trading "satisfactorily" and general catering is shown signs of improvement.

summer year seen Amber Day

With seven successive record years behind it, the Amber Day Holdings group is looking for "further progress" this year. Its hope is based on improved efficiency in production and substantial increases in retail sales.

Mr. Ronald Merkzer, the chairman of this fashion chain introducing a privilege discount scheme for shareholders, will receive a card with a copy of the report and counts entitling them to 10 per cent off clothes sold in the group's stores.

interim from George Ingham

In spite of an improvement in profits, George Ingham Holdings is not paying an interim dividend for the current year. This is because of other claims against the company. Turnover on the first half is more than doubled from £50,000 to £985,000 and pre-tax profits rose from £3,000 to £4,000.

Meanwhile the sale of the shares of the portfolio has lifted £180,000, against the market value on April 6 of £4,000.

rosby House hopes cut loss

Every effort is being made to restore Crosby House, the commercial and industrial property, to profitability, says Mr. W. A. Rosby, chairman. In his annual review, while it is not stated at this stage to predict a possible outcome for 1977, Rosby says that, with the exception of Thomas Cook Hotel, which is subject to a claim, it is "most unlikely" the pre-tax loss of £255,000 in 1976 will be repeated in 1977.

Warning of reduced demand at P. Lane

By Michael Clark

A warning on the outlook for the remainder of the year is given by Mr. Peter Lane, chairman of P. Lane, maker of glazed aluminium window assemblies.

There was overstocking of completed caravans in both the United Kingdom and on the Continent, which seems likely to lead to reduced demand for the group's products later in the year, while the various problems in the United Kingdom motor and commercial vehicle industries could have the same effect.

While adopting this cautious note on prospects, he affirms that group profits for 1977 "should comfortably exceed those of last year."

Meanwhile progress at the group's architectural subsidiary is being made at a slower rate than hoped with several worth-while contracts recently received. Output at Planet Windows (Glennvilles) is expected to continue at a low ebb for the rest of 1977 while management changes have been made to correct the position in 1978.

For the latest half, the Luxembourg offshoot has made another substantial contribution to a rise in pre-tax profits of 60 per cent to £698,000 for the six months to June 30. Of this the Luxembourg subsidiaries brought in £902,000.

Group sales rose from £5.69m to £8.7m, reflecting the continuing high demand from the transport, caravan and portable building industries and an improved demand from the building industry, except in Scotland where competition remained severe. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 1.8p against 1.5p.

Shell Chemicals (UK) hit by decline in home sales

By Peter Hill

Profits of Shell Chemicals UK "tumbled" in the first three months of this year to £4.2m from £5.5m in the first three months of the year. The fall is attributed to the generally stagnant state of the economy. Home sales by almost 3 per cent in the second quarter, though export sales showed a marginal improvement.

With the normal seasonal downturn in July and August continuing into last month the company believes that the third quarter's output will show little improvement.

Mr. Derek Crofton, the company's finance director, quoted in the latest issue of *Spectrum*, the company's newspaper, said: "We are going through a

period of extremely difficult marketing conditions. Falling demand both at home and overseas has put prices of many products under pressure and led to reduced plant loadings. This has increased unit costs and as fuel and feedstock prices have also risen our profit margins have been severely squeezed."

Last year the company recorded a pre-tax profit of £10.8m but Mr. Crofton noted that the company had generated sufficient cash to cover its capital expenditure programme for the first six months as well as increase working capital. The downturn in the second quarter, however, reverses the steadily improving trend which has been experienced since the end of 1975.

Singer sees 40 pc 3rd qtr gain

The Singer Company of America, manufacturers of sewing machines and related products, expects to record a gain of more than 40 per cent in its third quarter income from continuing operations. This represents a sales increase of about 8 per cent and operating income growth of nearly 17 per cent compared with the same period last year. Mr. Joseph Flavin, the chairman, states.

The expected third-quarter results will compare with income from continuing operations of \$7.9m (about £4.6m), sales of \$499.3m and operating income of \$27.2m in the third quarter of last year.

Discussing likely 1977 year-end results, Mr. Flavin said: "Thanks to the balance of our businesses we will record an excellent year with significant growth over last year."

International

approval in Britain and Japan, was not disclosed. At present Baring Brothers and Sanwa Bank each own 40 per cent of Baring Sanwa. After the transaction, they would each own 50 per cent.

Fearnley & Eger

The Norwegian Shipping Company, Fearnley & Eger, is seeking an arrangement with its creditors in view of steadily weakening shipping markets. Mr. Christian Haneberg, the company's legal adviser, said in Oslo. He said that commitments are £1.2m (about £120m). A decision by the creditor whether or not to accept an offer by the company will be made at a meeting in London this week. Major creditors include the Finnish Warship Yard and the American Chemical Bank of New York.

German ICI loss

Deutsche ICI GMBH records a net loss of DM104.5m (about £4.8m) in the 1976 year on sales of DM854.5m. The finance director, Herr Hans Moeller, says that the 1976 loss resulted

mainly from the fibre business which will again be loss-making this year, but he could not say if 1977 would bring an overall net loss.

Aguacate mine charge

The United States Securities Commission has accused Aguacate Consolidated Mines of Costa Rica and three of its officials of violating the anti-fraud and registration provisions of federal securities laws. At the time the complaint was filed the defendants agreed without admitting any violations of the law to a permanent court injunction barring further violations of securities laws. The commission charged that Aguacate and three of its officials had sold hundreds of thousands of shares.

Georg Fischer increase

Georg Fischer AG, the Swiss-based engineering group, says its turnover rose to 883m francs (about £210.2m) in the first eight months of this year, up from 847m francs in the similar period last year. The company said that incoming orders rose by 8 per cent in the first eight months compared with the year earlier period. It is forecast, however, that for the full year, sales will be at about the same level as in 1976.

Hongkong investigating 'insiders'

Briefly

MERGER CLEARED

Proposed merger between Tagis Investments and the Hongkong Industrial is not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

STOCKEX HOLDINGS

Company has not been able to issue its annual report and accounts within six months of year-end because of delay at a subsidiary. Board hopes to issue them at end of November.

FIN PARIBAS

Group to make one-for-five scrip which will raise capital to £1.2m.

JARDINE MATHESON (SE ASIA)

Interim profit 3.11m Singapore dollars, against 2.83m dollars. Turnover 72.22m dollars against 64.35m dollars.

ADVANCE LAUNDRIES

Moderate 8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits in first half expected to continue, at somewhat better rate during second six months.

TURNER & NEWALL

A subsidiary has acquired control of Philip Hunt chemical Corp of New Jersey.

BRIT TRANSPORT STOCK

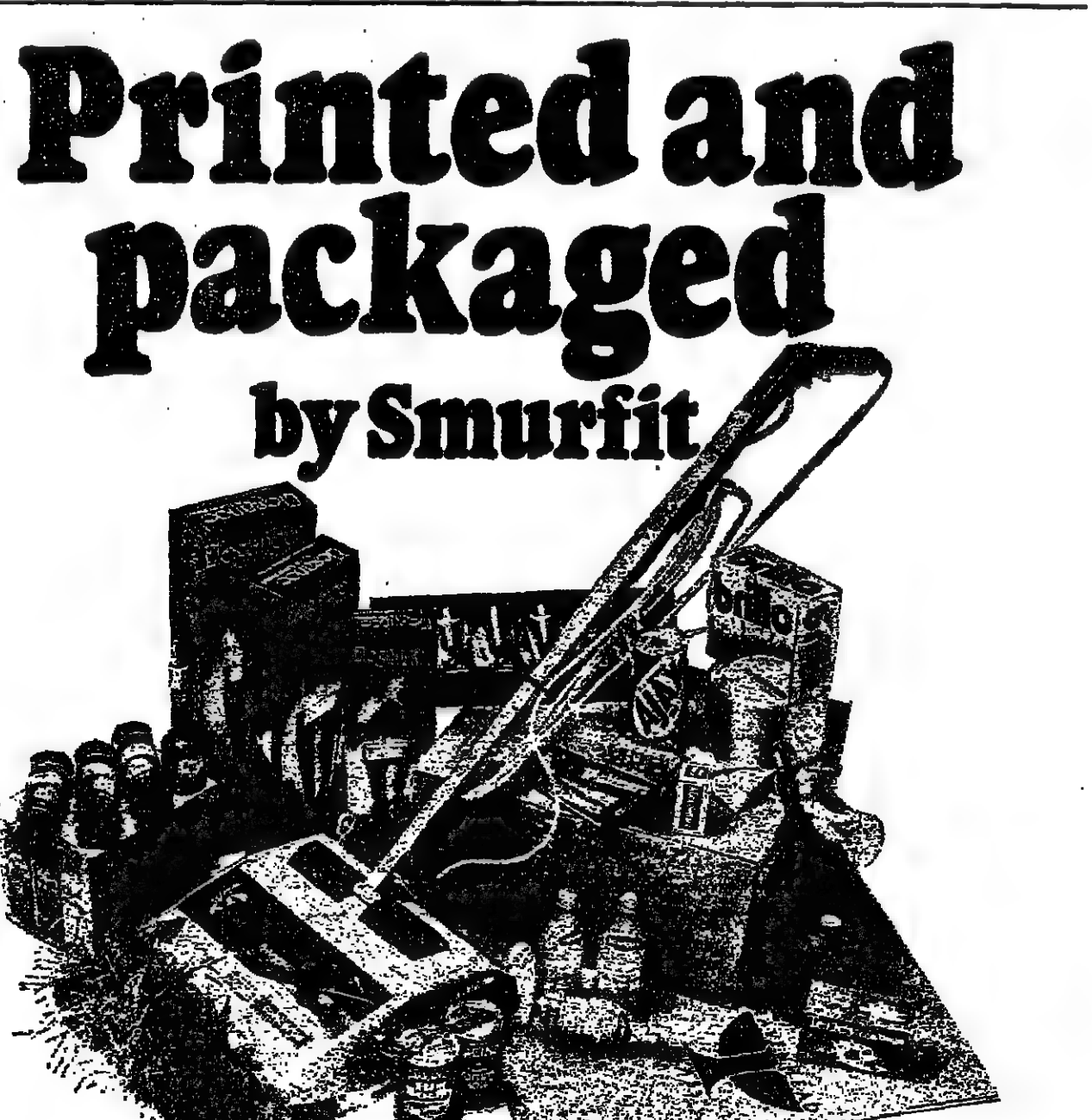
Treasury will make no conversion offer for holdings of 4 per cent British Transport Stock 1977 and it will be redeemed at par on December 20.

BRITISH LAND

Board says £7.5m has now been sold and an equivalent amount of bank debt repaid, thus reducing further the short-term indebtedness.

HILTONS FOOTWEAR

Opening weeks of second-half have proved to be much more encouraging than first half, and if trend continues through to the important Christmas selling period, full-year profits should show improvement.



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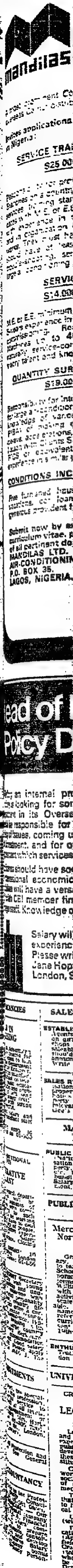
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